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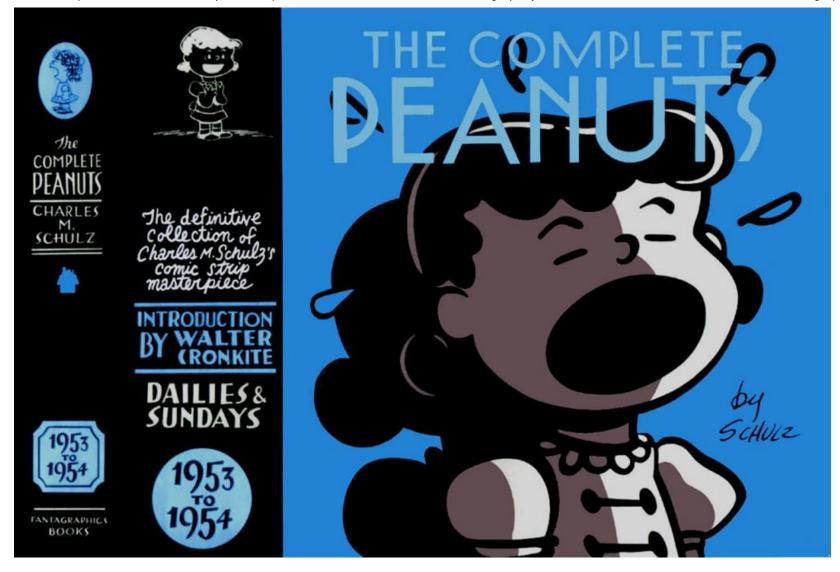
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COMPLETE PEANUTS

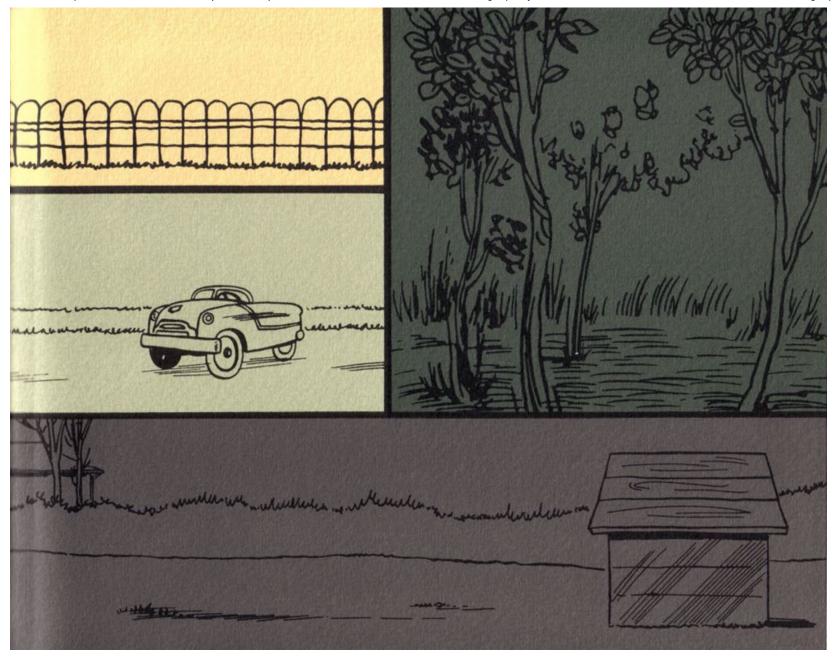
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Complete Peanuts v2 (1953-1954) Reading

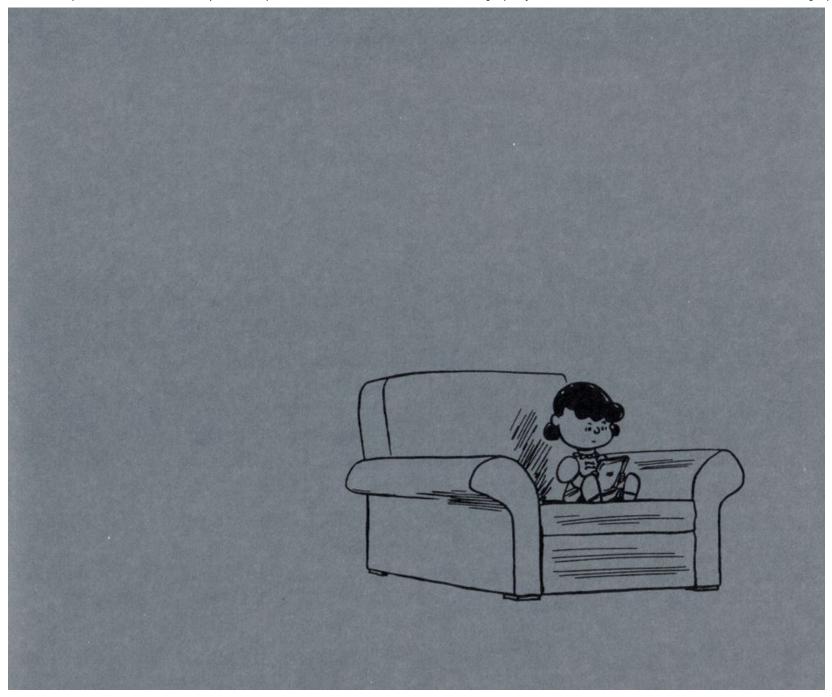
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FOREWORD by WALTER CRONKITE

Peanuts has caused me almost as much anguish as has been suffered, through vast disappointment or the dastardly doings of fate, by so many of Charles Schulz's wondrous characters.

The first of my tales of woe concerns a planned visit with Mr. Schulz in his Santa Rosa home, as arranged by a good friend of his, the noted California newspaper editor and columnist, Neil Morgan. A day in July was set. My anticipation began to grow, like that of a teenager about to meet a rock star. At almost the last moment, a news assignment took me to another corner of the globe. An understanding Schulz agreed to postpone the meeting to another date when I would be back in the States.

And then, tragedy struck — he suffered the cancer attack from which he would not recover. That huge part of the world's population that adored him grieved and I, deprived of the

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opportunity to at least briefly share his company, was a particularly stricken mourner.

As did others who were luckier and got to know Schulz personally, perhaps I would have assumed the privilege of calling him by his almost onomatopoeic nickname, Sparky.

Back there in 1922, just a few days after he was born to the wife of a barber in St. Paul, Minnesota, an uncle was so enchanted by his infant nephew he started calling him Sparky — after a horse, Spark Plug, featured in a then-popular comic strip called Barney Google. The nickname stuck, and Charles Schulz was called Sparky the rest of his life.

Now here you have a confluence of coincidences that would never be accepted even by the producers of a Hollywood pot-boiler: A baby nicknamed after a cartoon character growing up to be one of the greatest and most popular cartoonists of all time!

And second of our coincidences, that name "Sparky" would have been just right for a Peanuts character — a self-promotion Sparky Schulz managed to resist for his entire career. I recount this now because I find it difficult to think (or write) of the great man by any name other than that perfect pseudonym of "Sparky." I would like to think that my talk with him would have been sprinkled with Sparkys and Walters, and would have been as lengthy and fascinating as the one he granted Rick Marschall and Gary Groth for the interview that appeared in the first

volume of this series. It was enthralling stuff, and among its interesting revelations was the fact that Schulz in conversation was verbose and rambling, leaving sentences dangling and unfinished.

Now that is not unusual when an individual is under interrogation (and that includes this newsman when on the other side of the microphone). However, it deserves notice because of its sharp contrast to the tight discipline he exhibited in his work.

His few words of dialogue — a sentence or two a panel at most — were complemented by an economy of line in his illustrations. His drawings were but scribbles, a few lines scarcely more elaborated than children's stick figures, but his genius was such that with those short few lines he created a panorama of life's experiences as are

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suffered, or enjoyed, or tolerated by the inhabitants of a cartoon village.

A member of that community, one who experiences all the emotional pangs of his human friends, is the dog Snoopy. I'm a dog lover, as was Schulz, and he is my favorite Peanut. It was in fact Snoopy who, indirectly, caused me the anguish which I mentioned at the top of this essay. (Schulz called his first childhood dog Spike — an inspired play on his own nickname. A sculpture of Spike is on display at the Peanuts Museum in Santa Rosa.)

On a Father's Day many years ago, one of my children bestowed upon me one of those Peanut souvenirs which we are told made millions of dollars for Schulz. It was a little miniature doghouse on which perched Snoopy in his aviator's goggles and helmet as he imagined himself a World War I fighter ace.

The tiny music box it held failed almost immediately, but Snoopy went on to grace my dressing table for several decades. I would greet him every morning and he would put a smile on my face and a little song in my heart as I faced the day, and each night before retiring I would bid him goodnight and wish him well as he

searched the skies for his adversary, The Red Baron.

Then, several decades after our meeting, Snoopy disappeared. It wasn't his fault. He hadn't run away. He was lost as we moved to another house. I was as devastated as anyone losing a pet animal. Oh, of course I might have found another souvenir Snoopy in a Broadway shop,

but that would have been disloyal to my Snoopy. And it was a good thing I didn't try to acquire a replacement: He turned up in some misplaced furniture almost a year after his disappearance, and it would have been terrible if he had thought I ever tried to replace him. He is sitting right now on my desk and I think he's throwing a salute to all his loyal fans.

I suppose there are out there some people who will think I'm a foolish old romantic, possibly even a little nuts, to have such an association with, even to the point of talking to, an inanimate object. You *Peanuts* fans know better. You know that the greatest of Charles Schulz's magic tricks was bringing life to all those wonderful folks with which he people our world and brightened our days.

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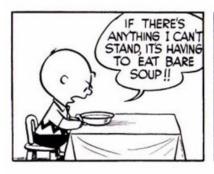










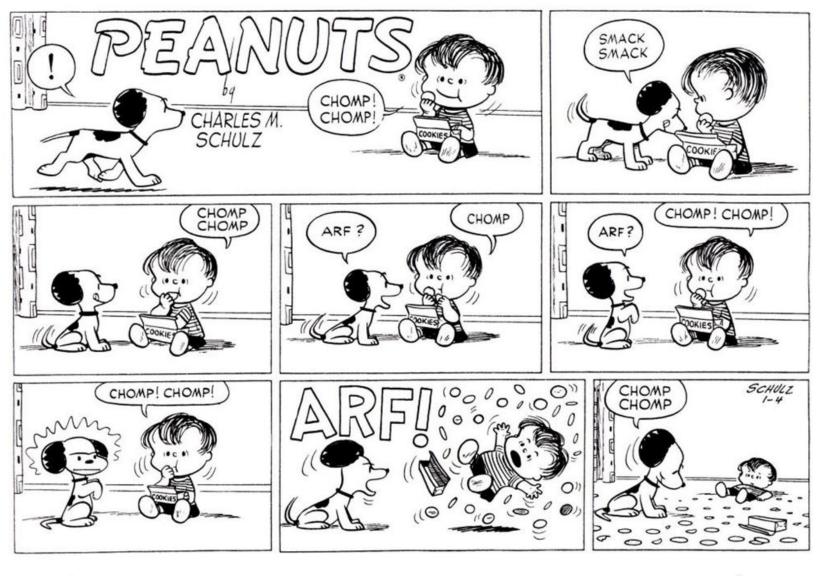








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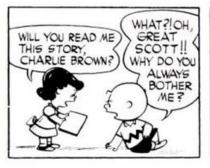








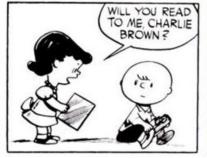










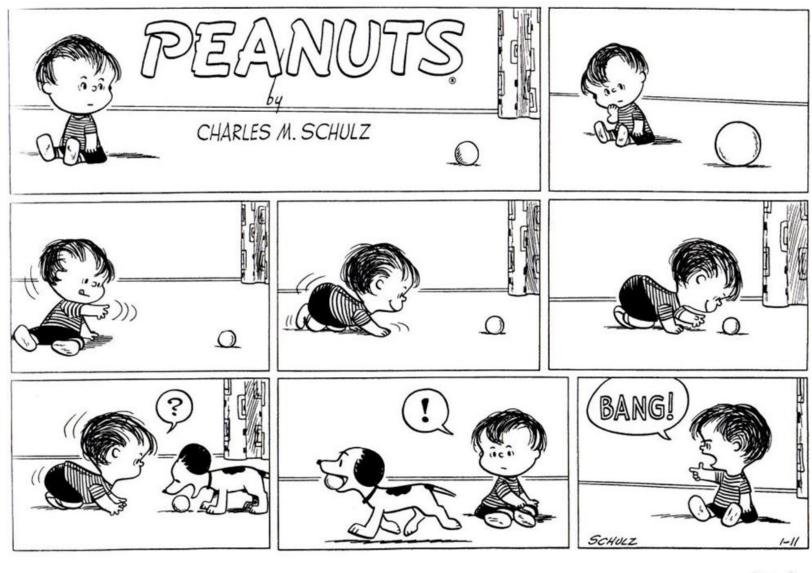








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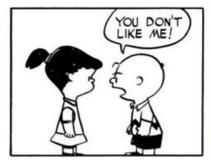
















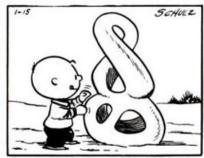


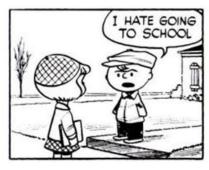
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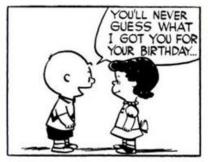


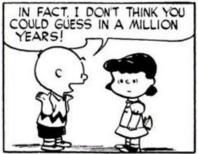




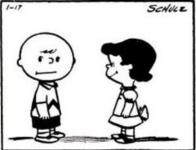


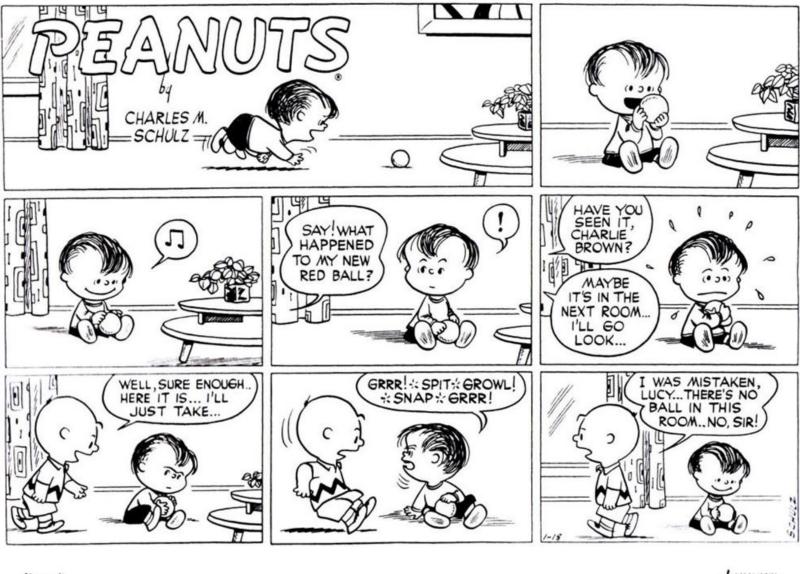












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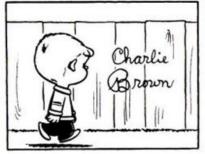


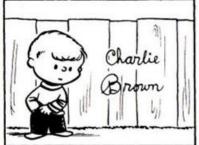








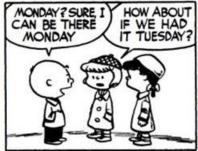










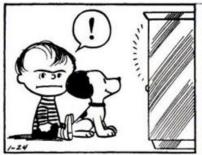






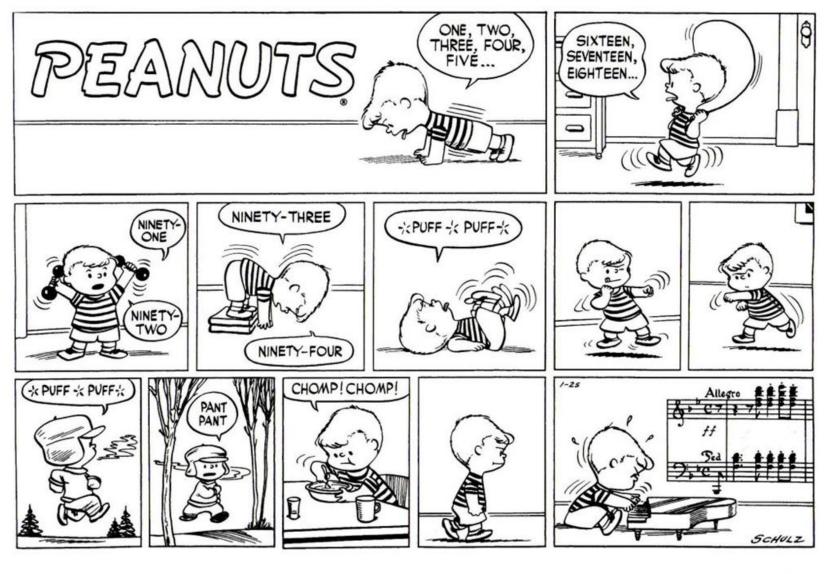


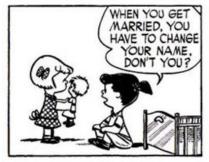






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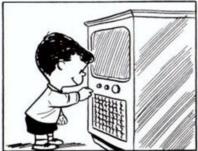






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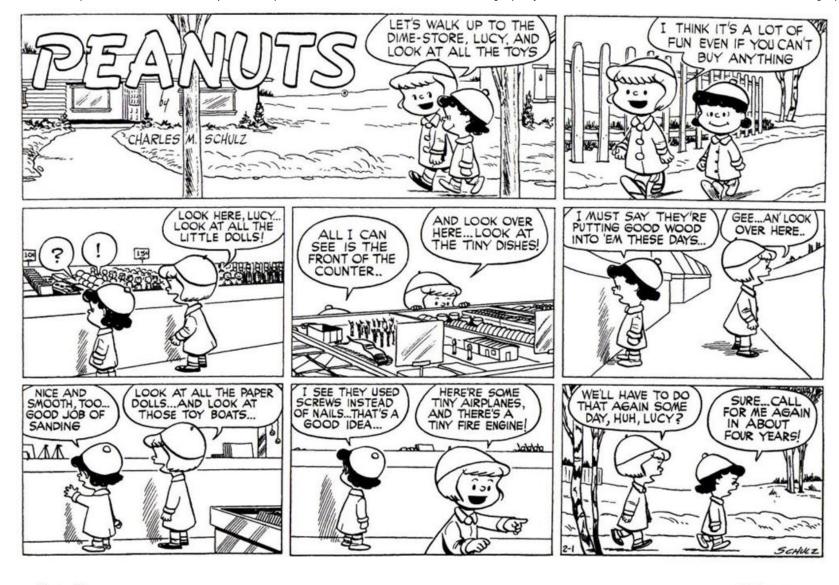








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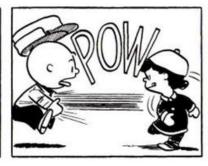




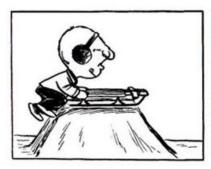




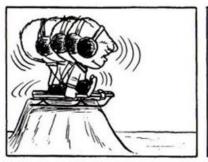


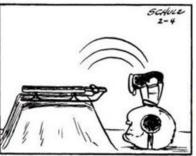
























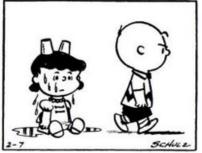




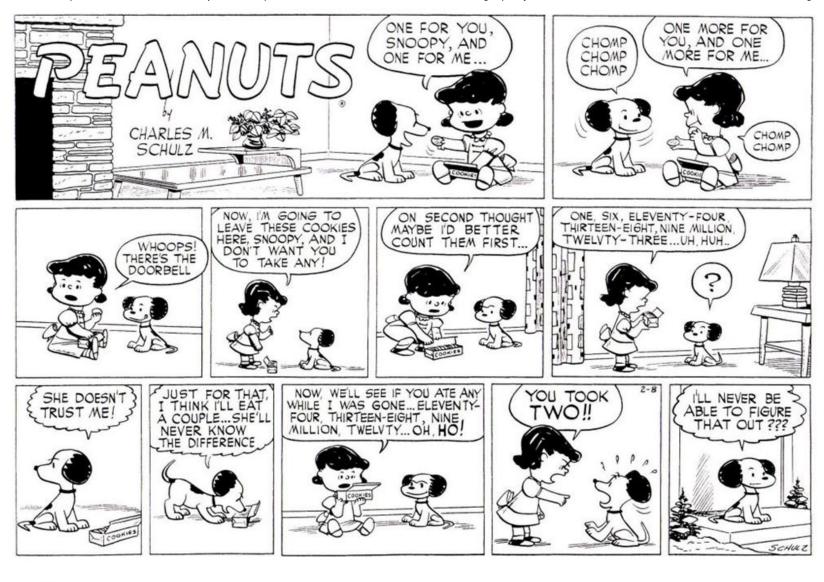








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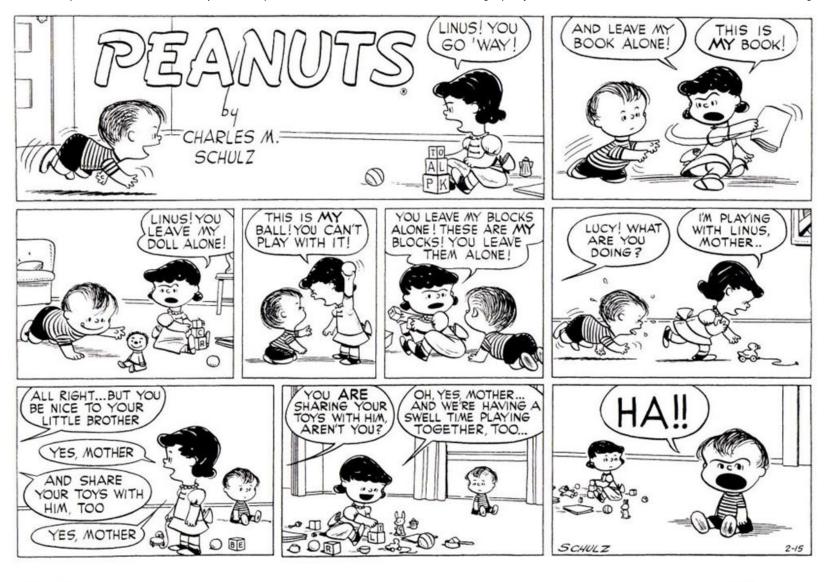




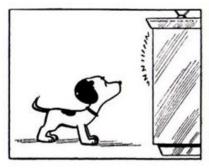




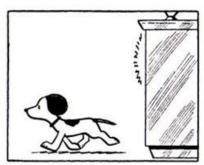




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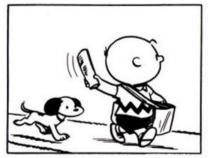


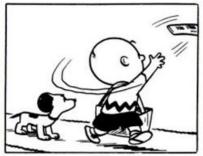








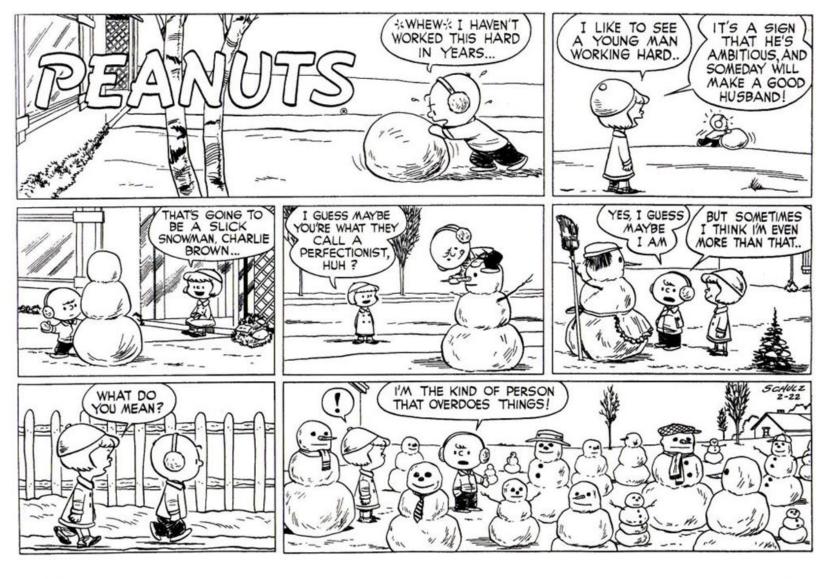








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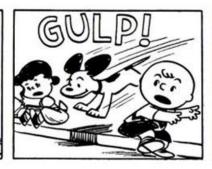








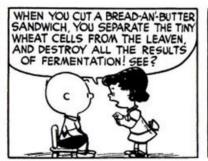














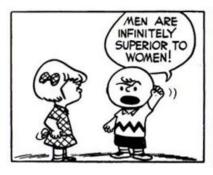
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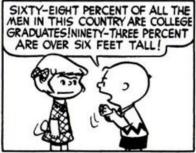


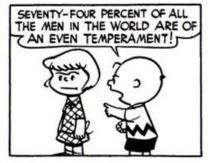












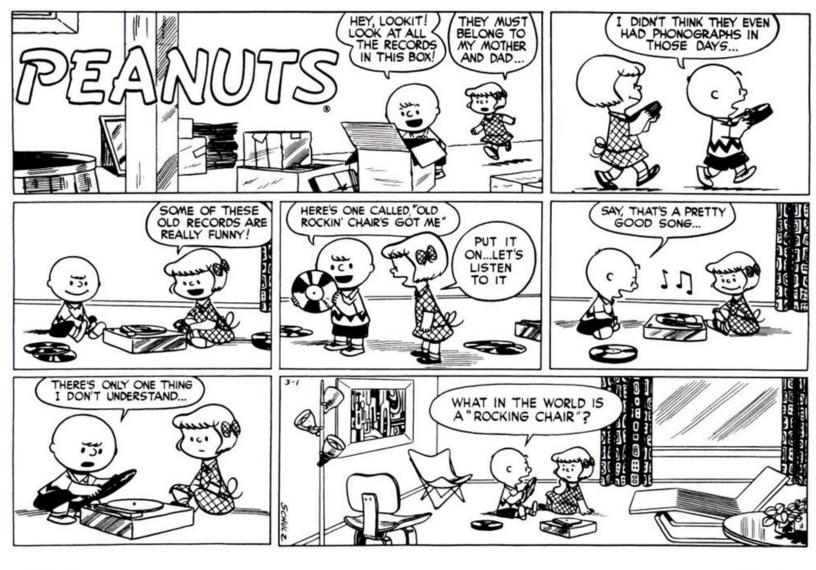












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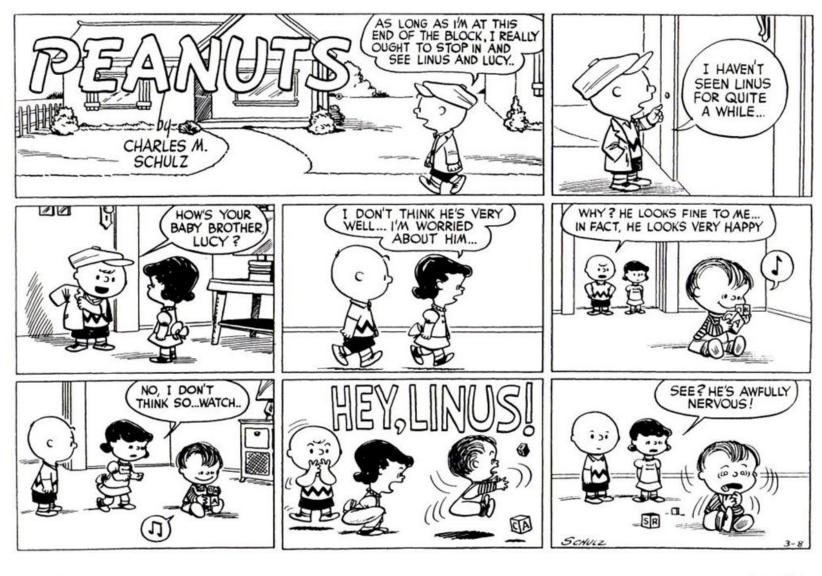








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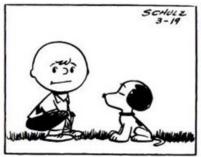


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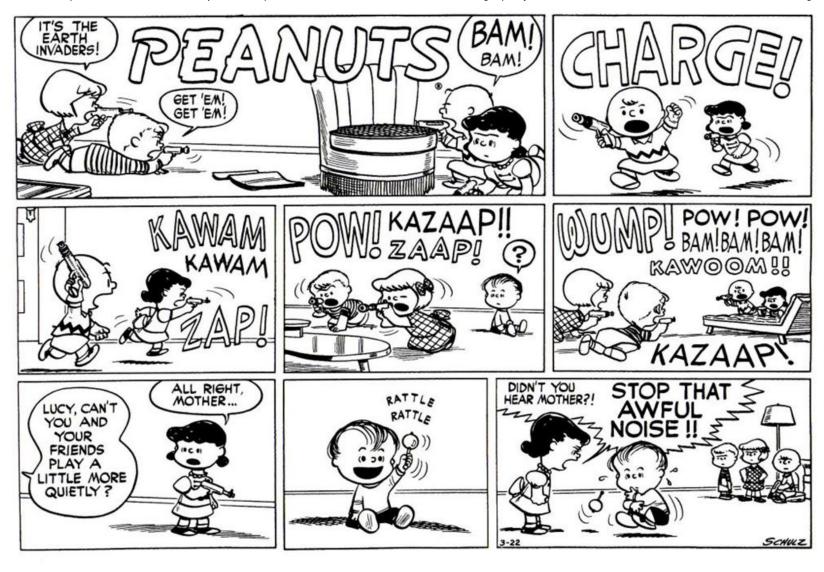






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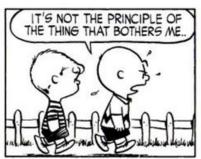




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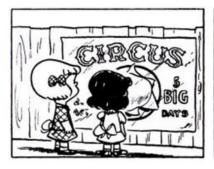








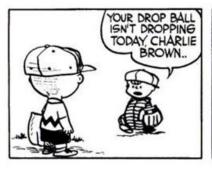
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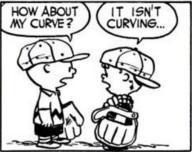








































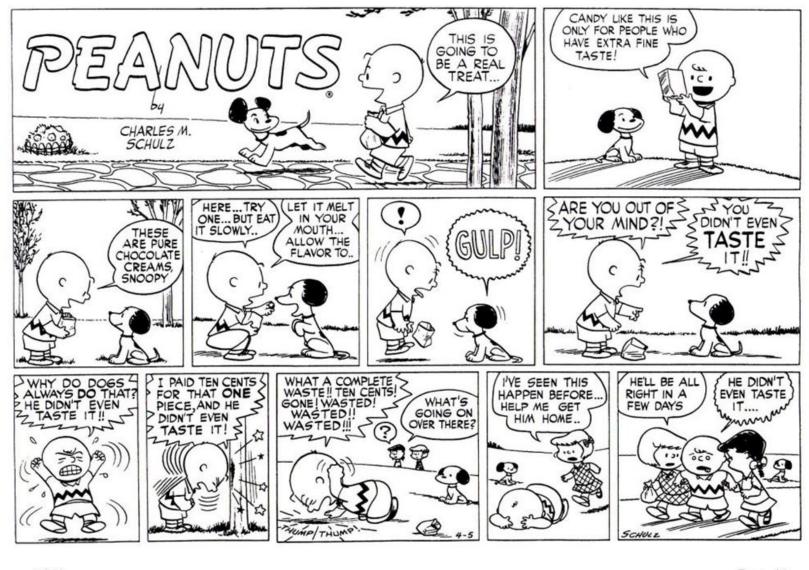








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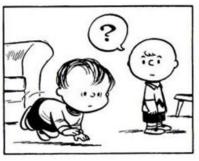
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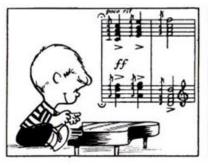








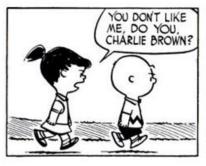
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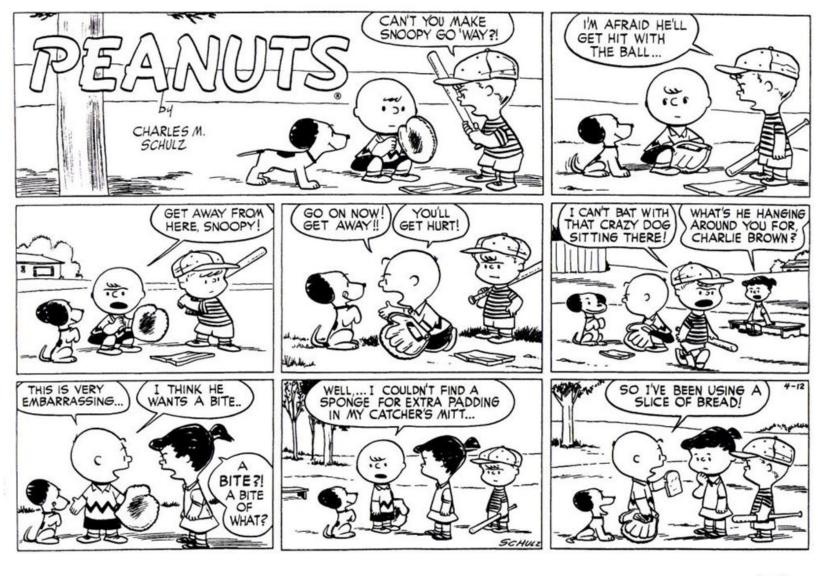






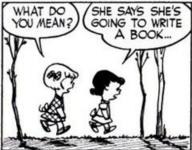






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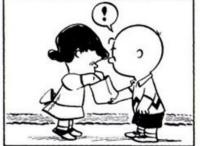
































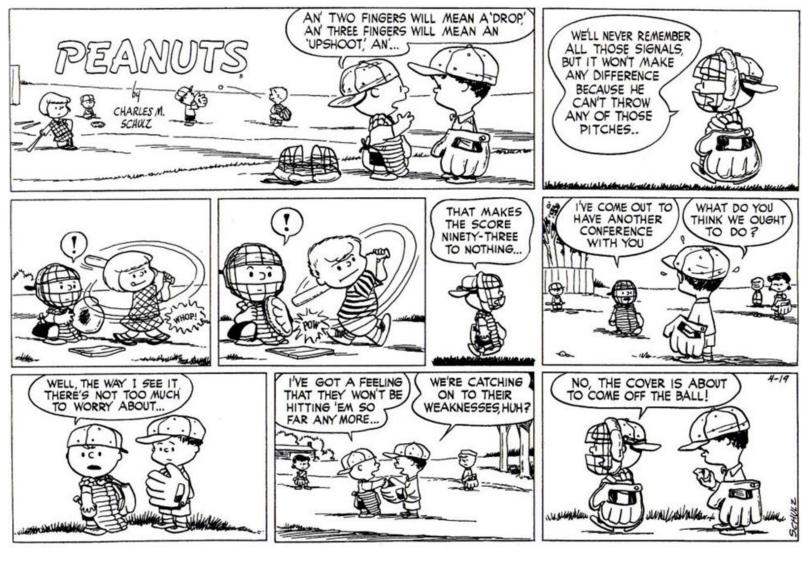




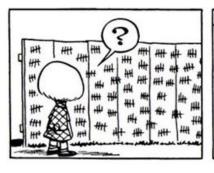




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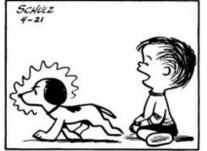












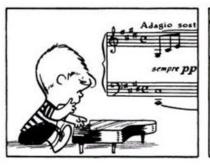


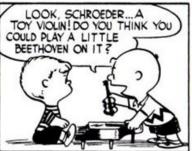






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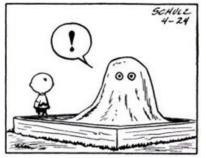






















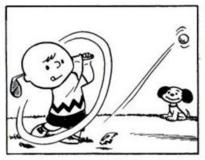
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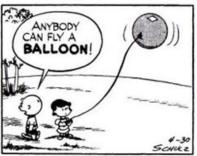




















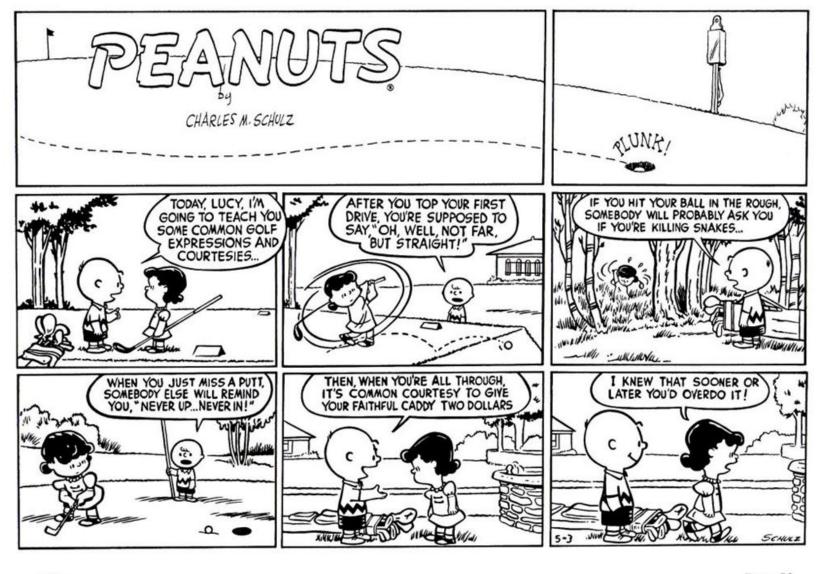


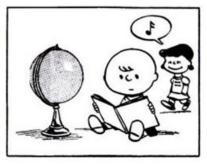






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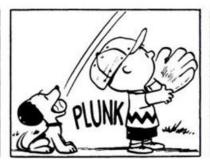














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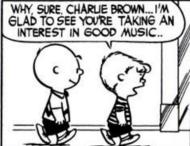














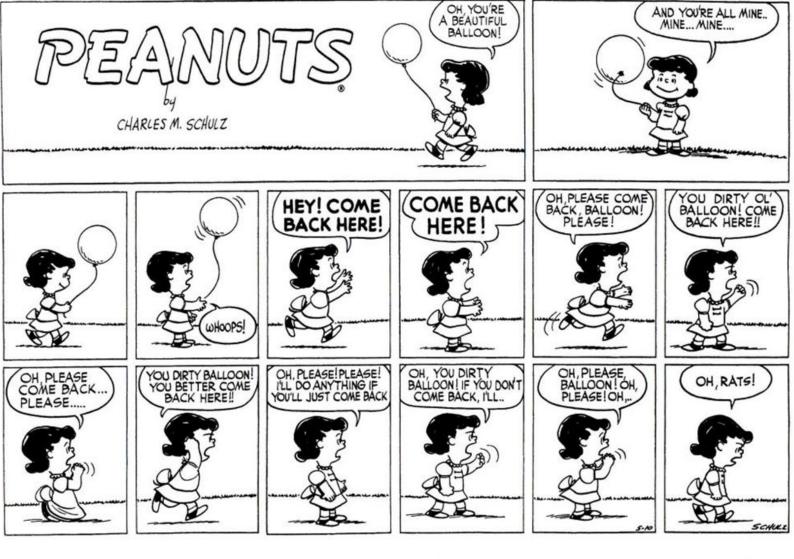












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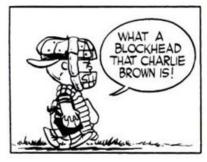


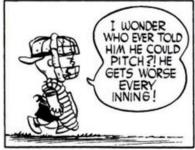




























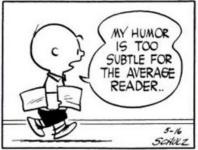




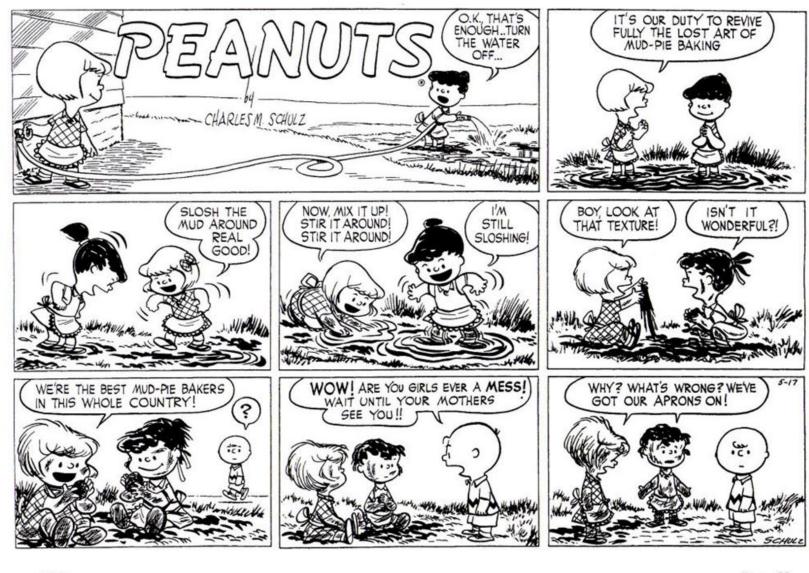




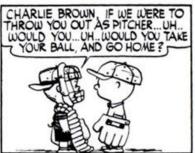




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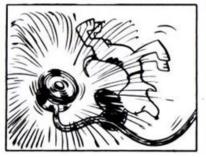


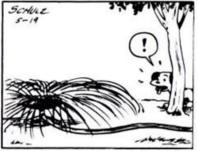














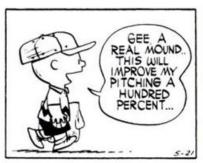




















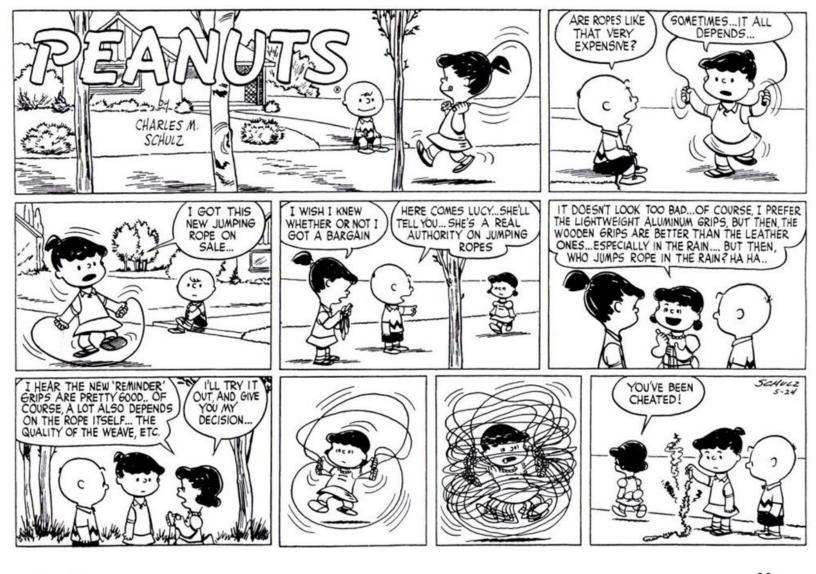












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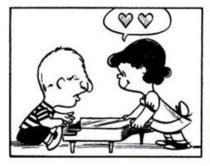




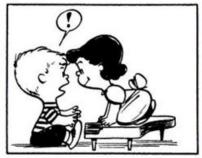






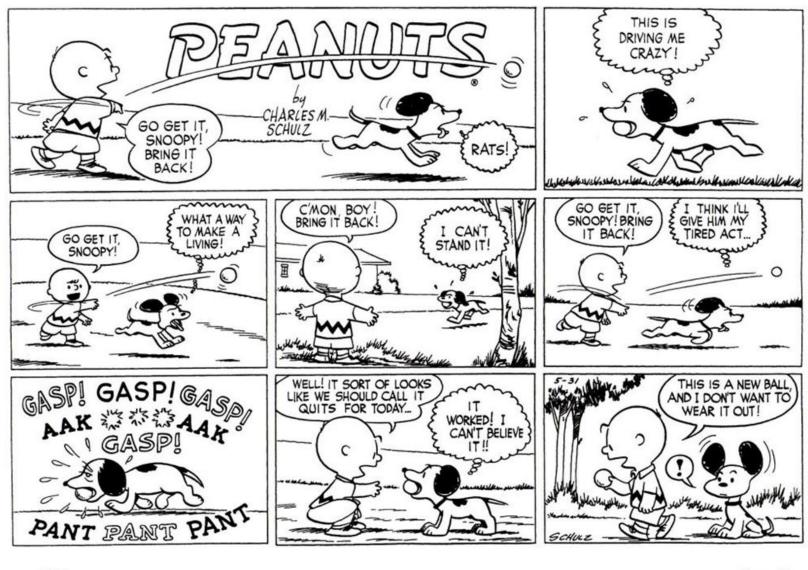








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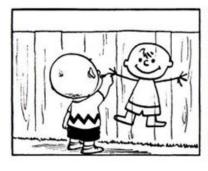






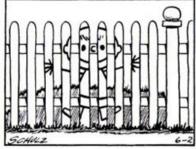




















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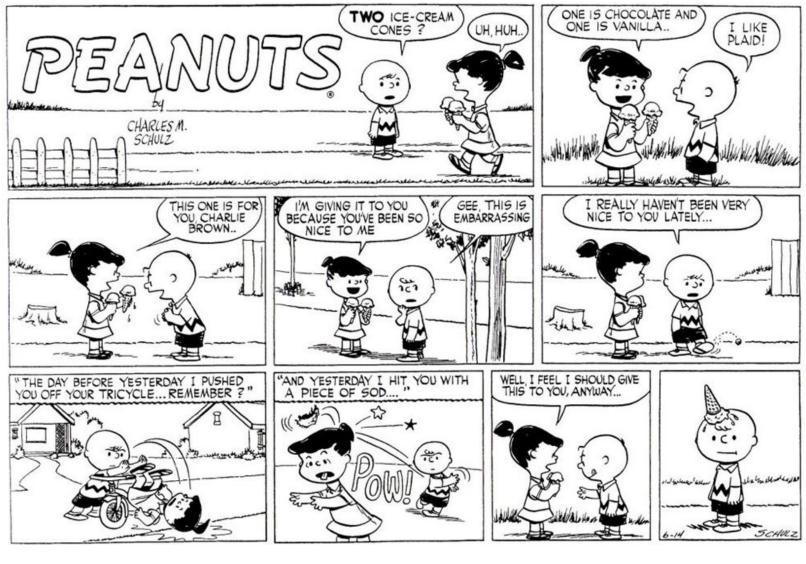


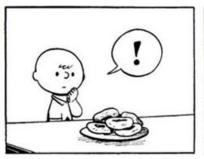






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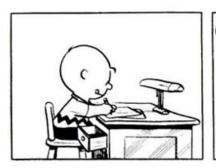








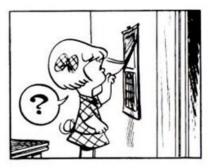














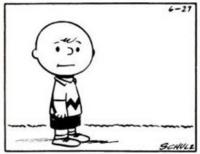












June

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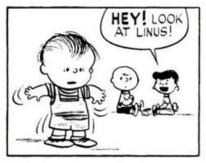


























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June/July



















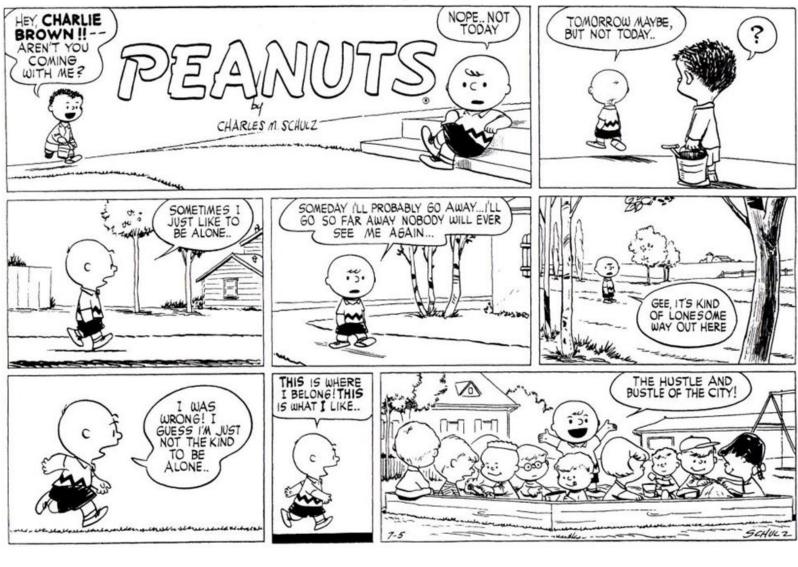






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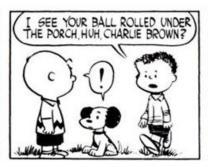














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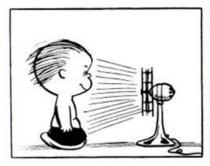
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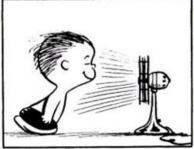


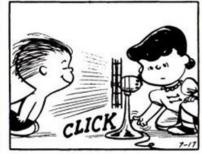




















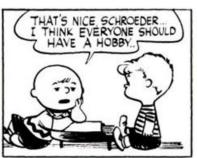




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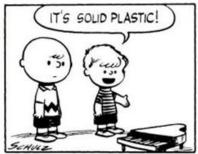




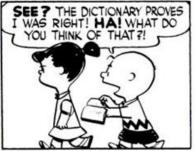




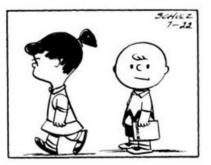








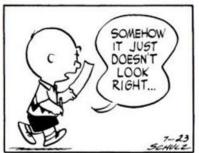


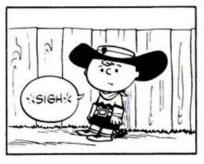




















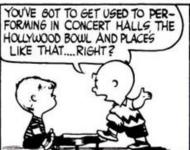
































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July/August



















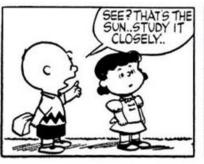








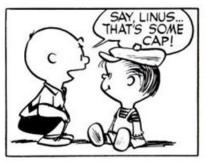
Page 92 August

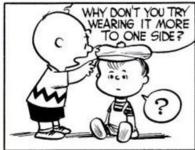


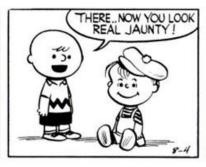






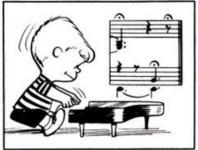








































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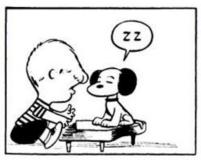




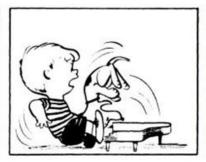
















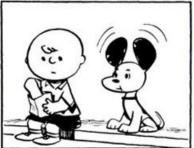


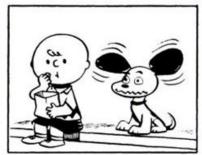




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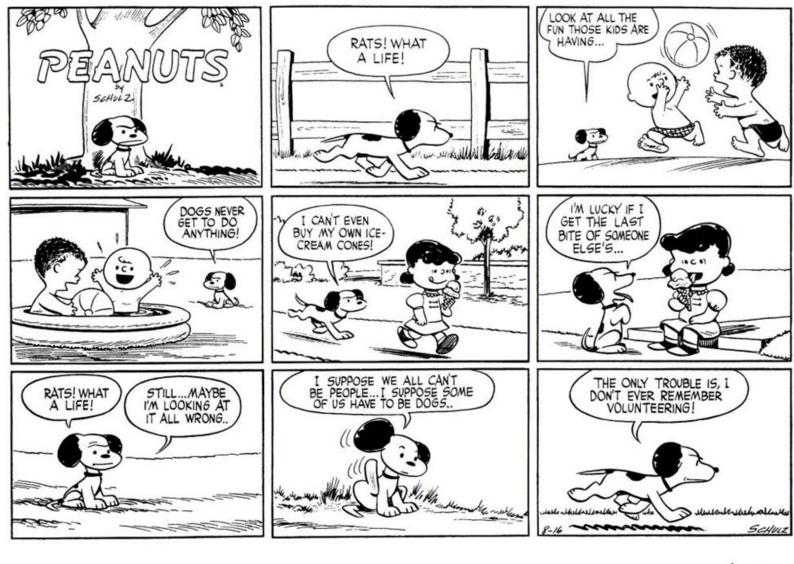












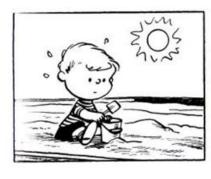
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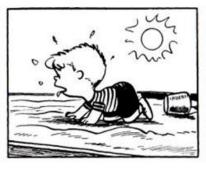


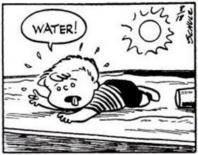


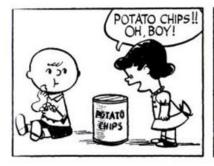








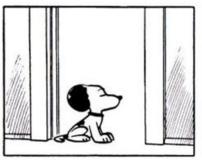


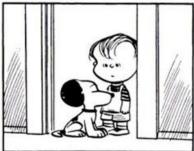


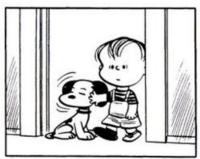


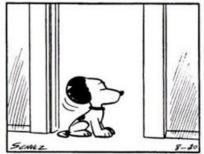
















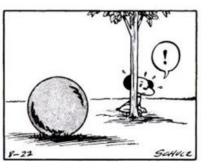




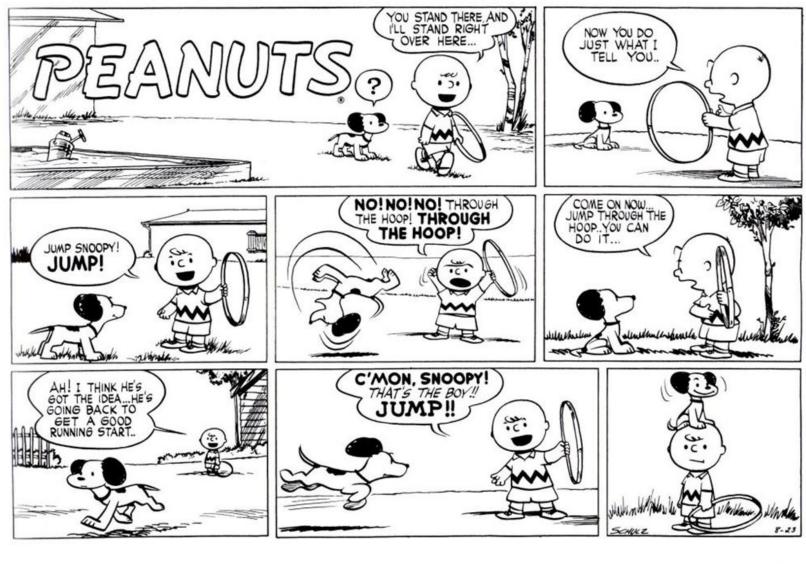








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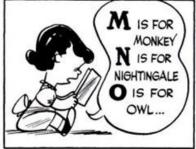
























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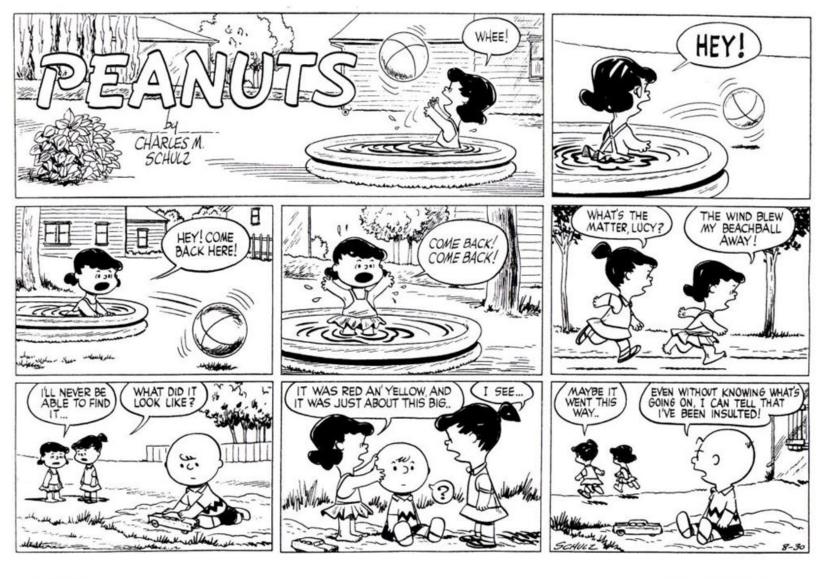












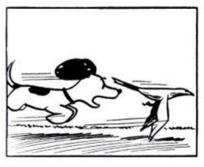
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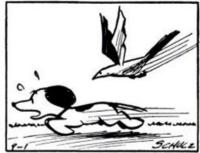










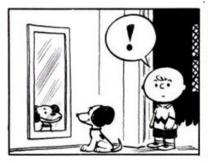


























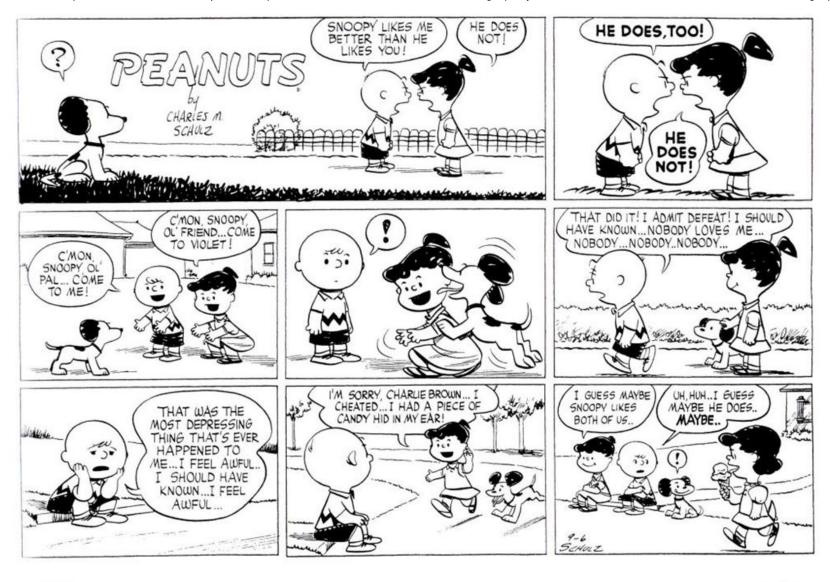








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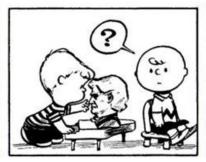


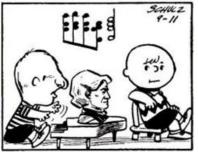


















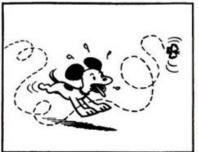




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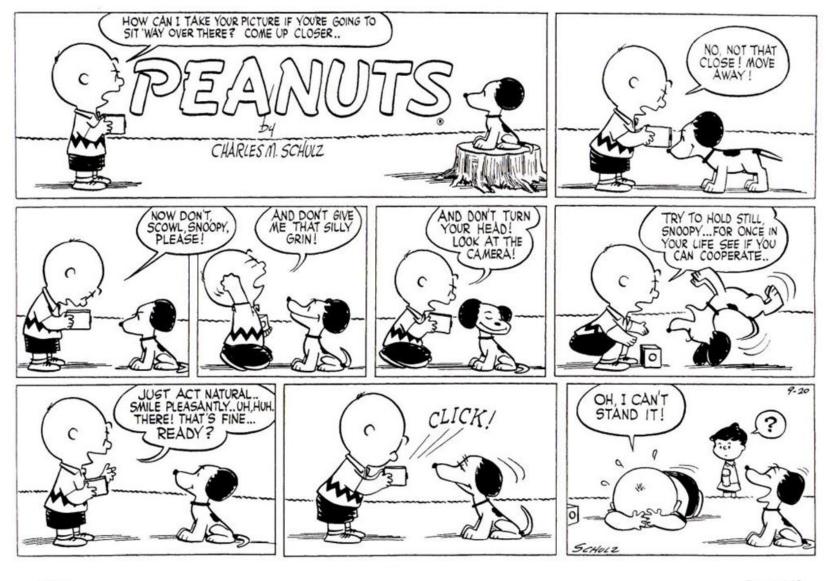






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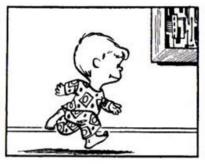






















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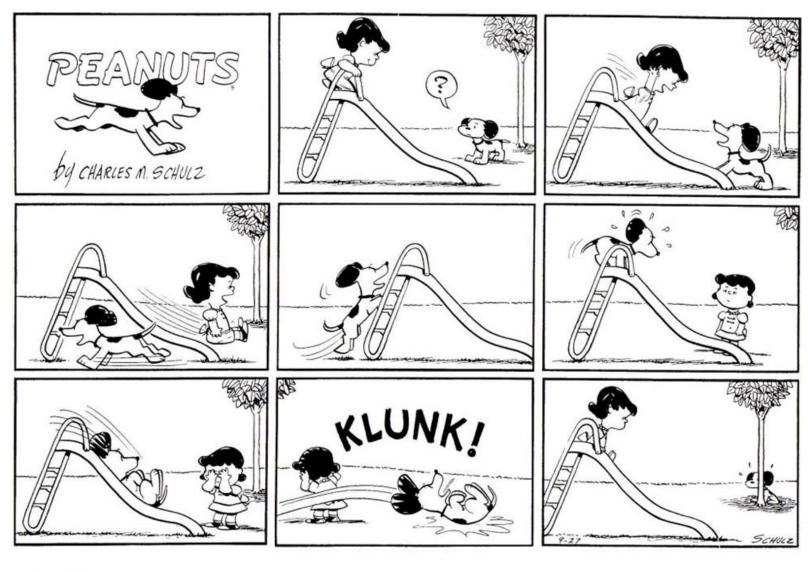












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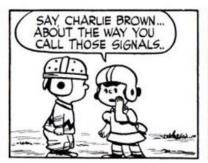


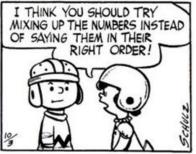












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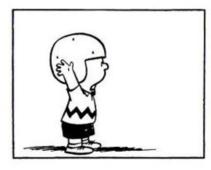


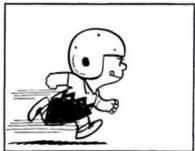
















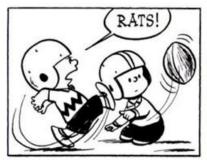
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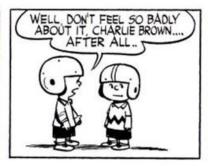


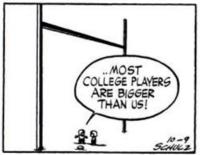










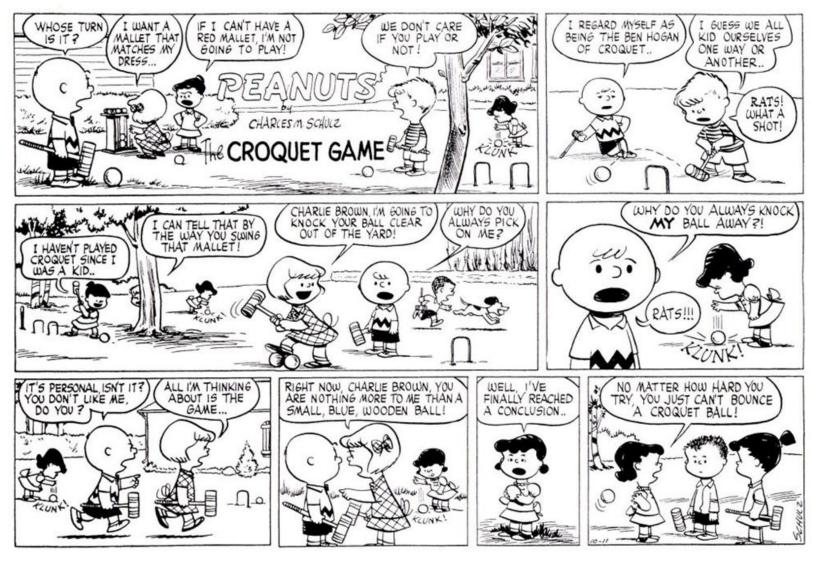




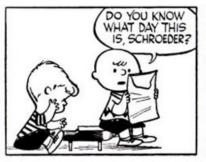








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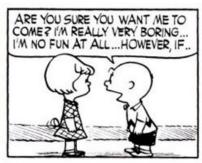










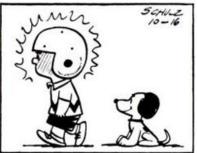




















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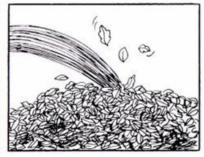


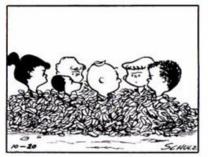




















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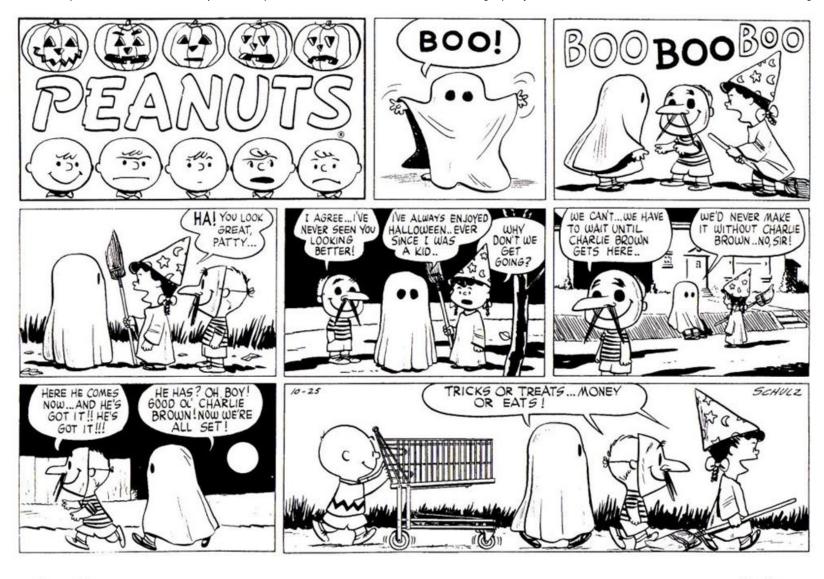












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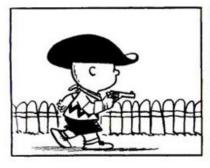


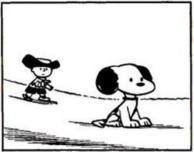




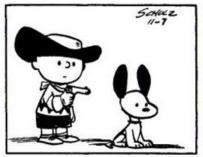


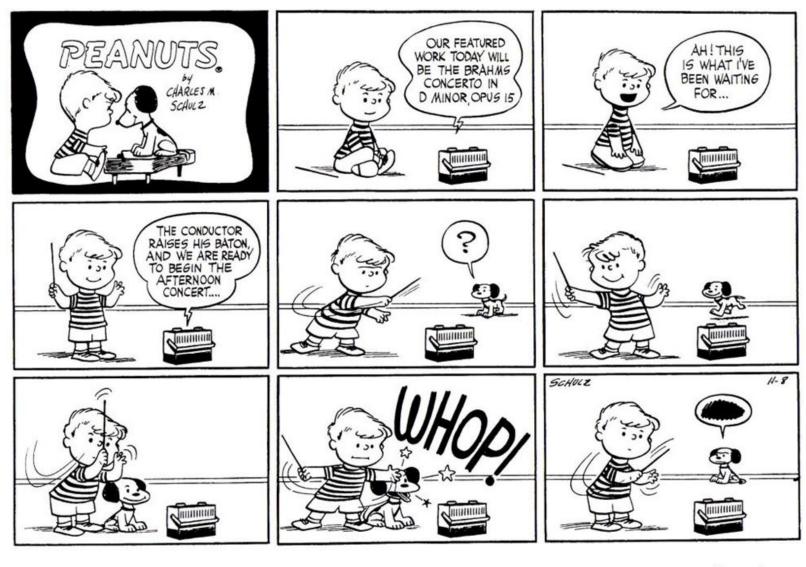








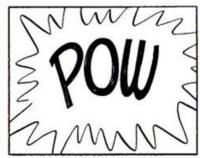




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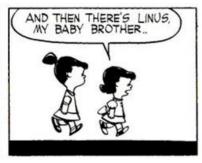






































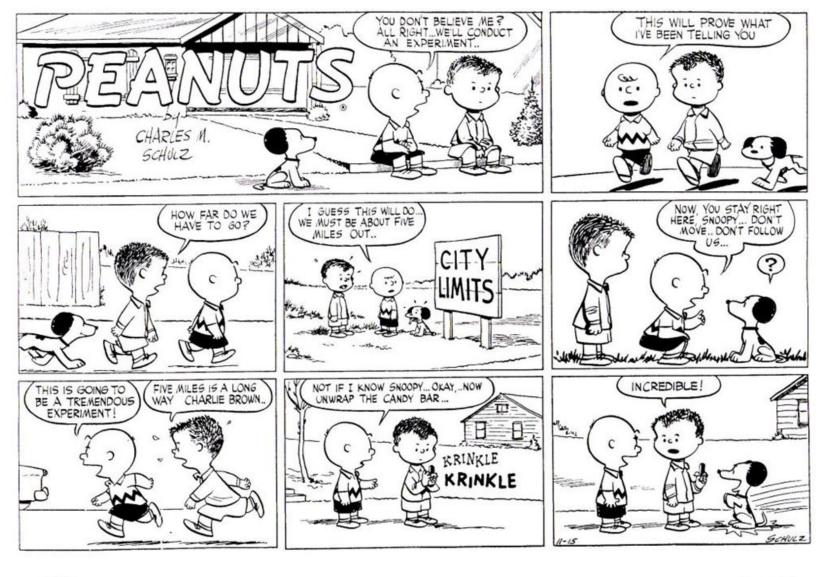








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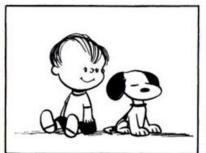




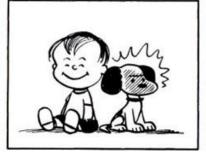














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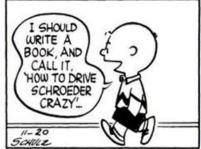














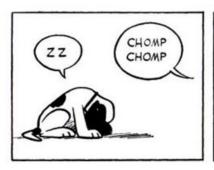








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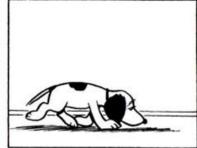






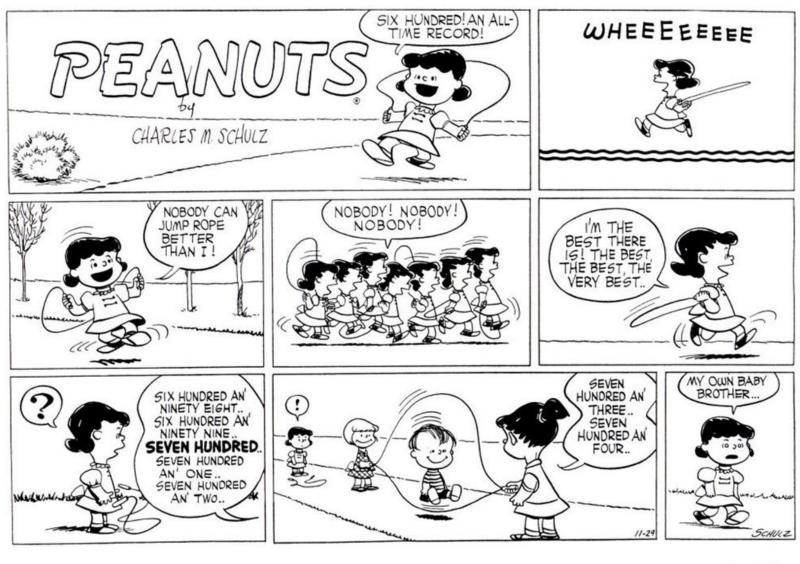








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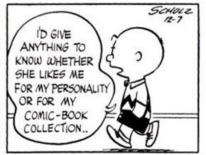


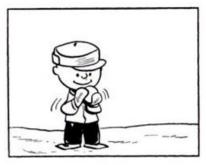






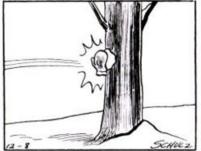








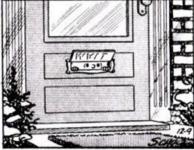














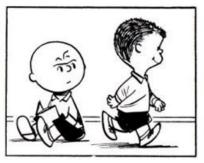






















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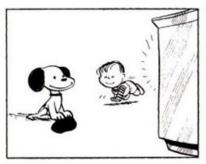


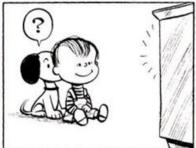




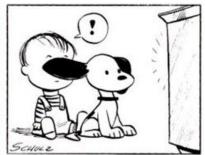
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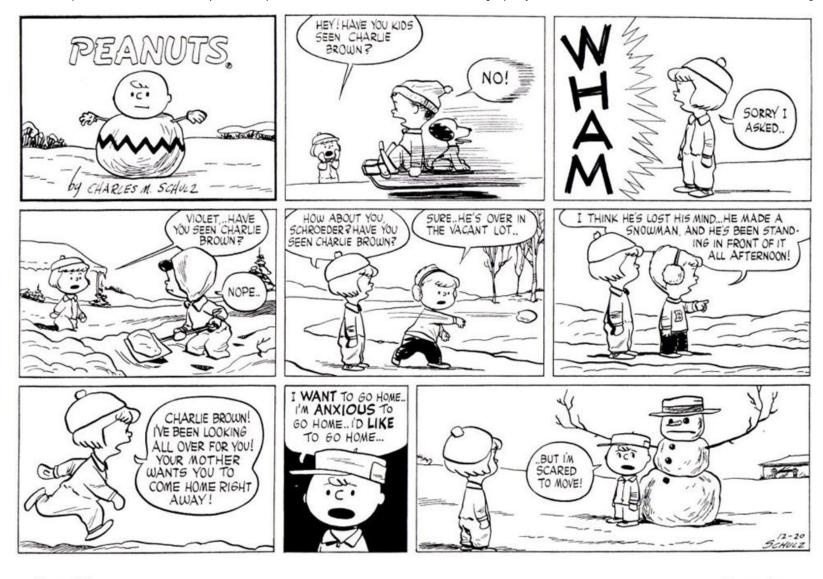












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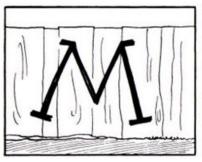




















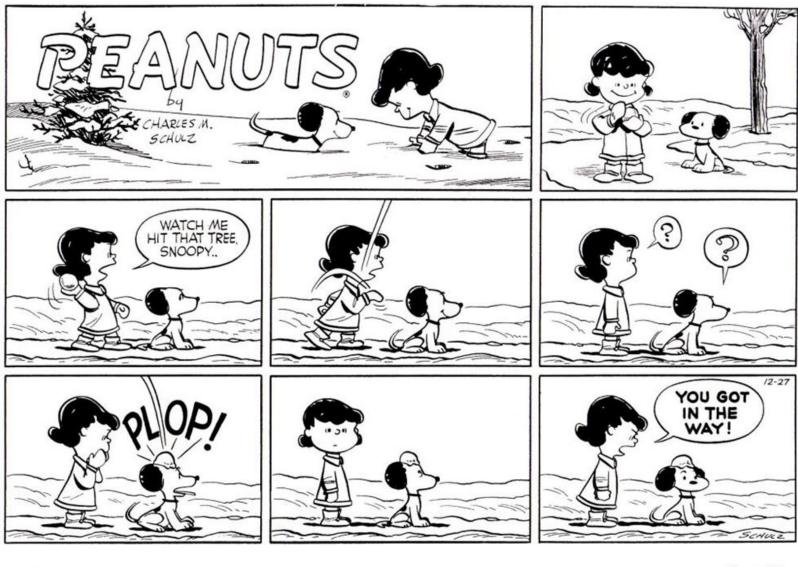






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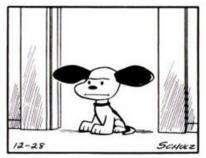
December











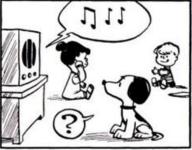
















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December/January

















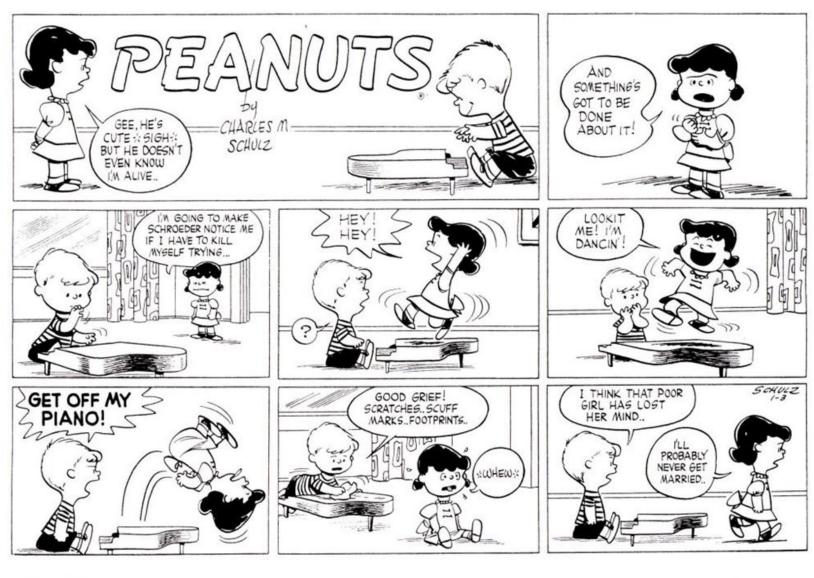








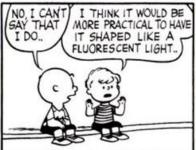
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January





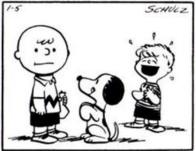
















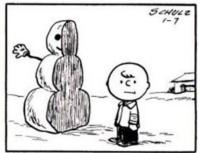




















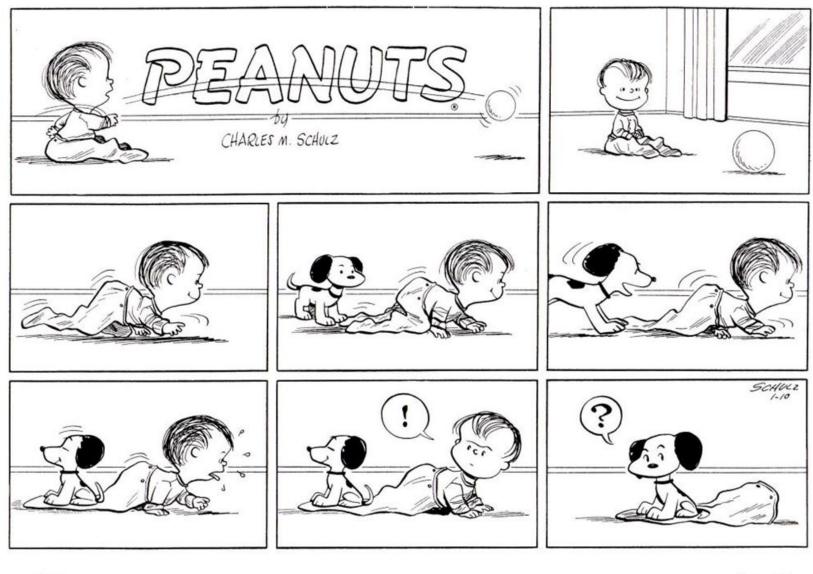








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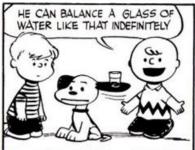
















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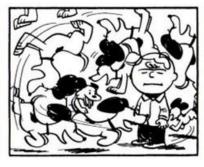






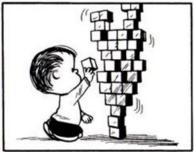
















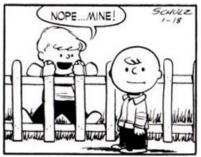


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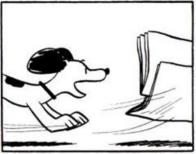


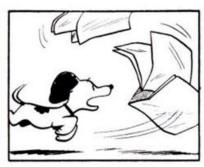














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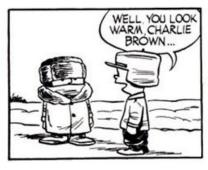
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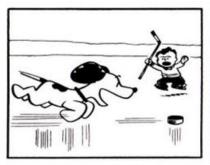






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January













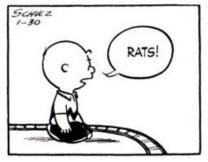


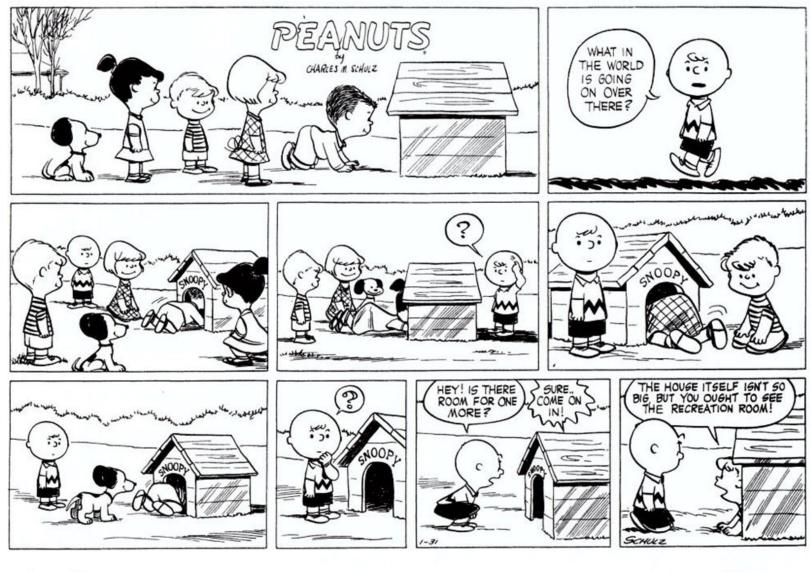










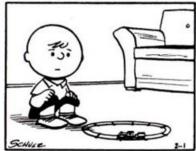


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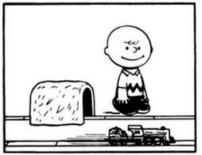






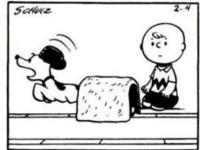






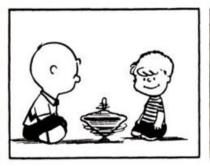




















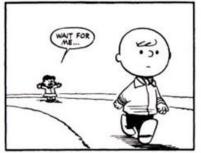


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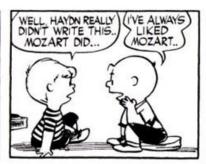








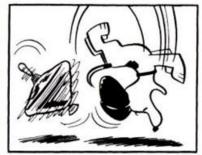


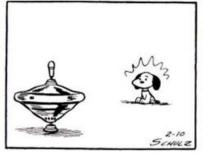












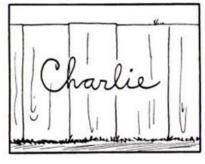
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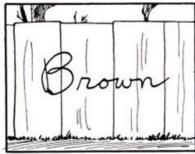


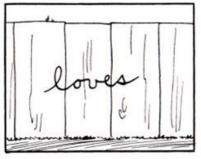












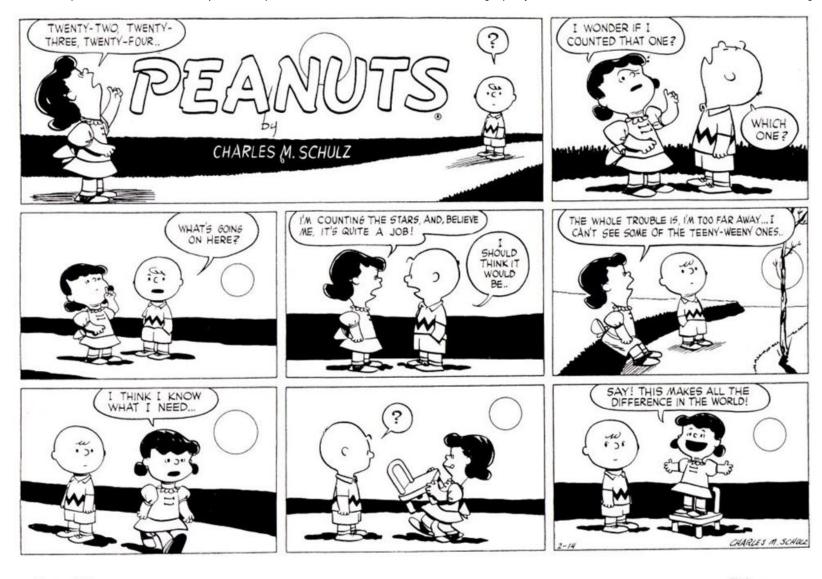




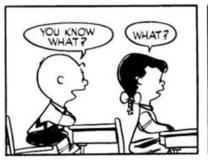








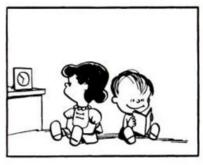
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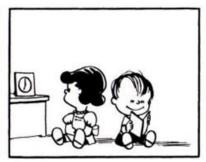










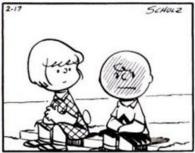


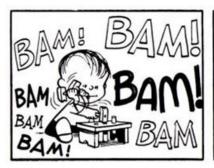


























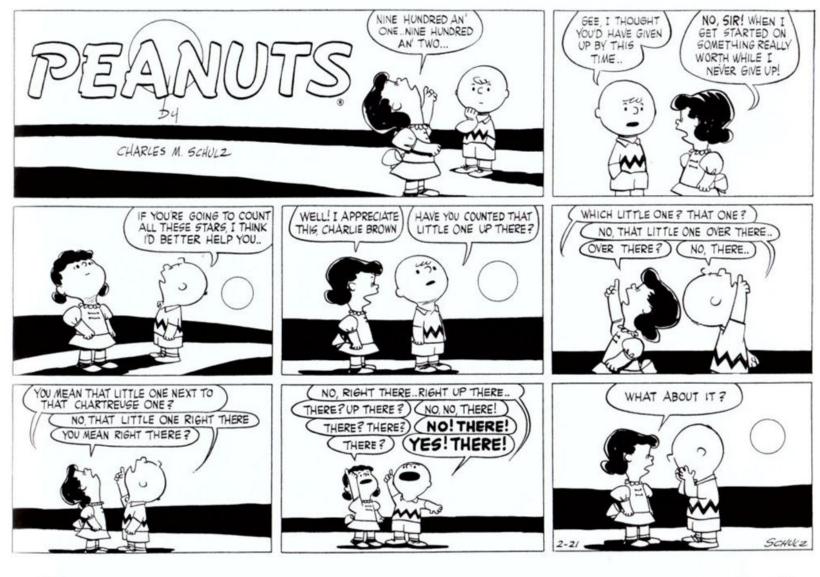








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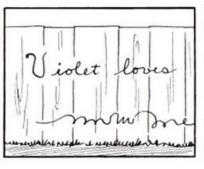


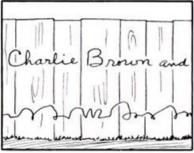


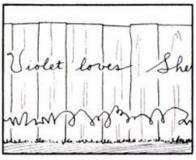






















February

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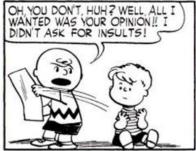




















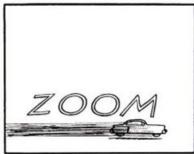






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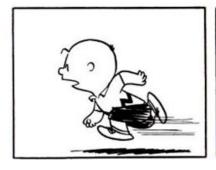






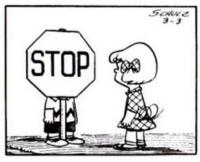


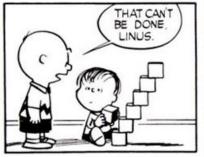




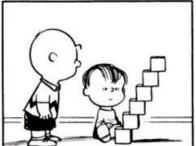












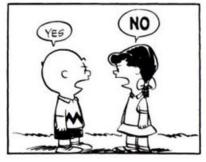














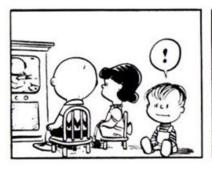




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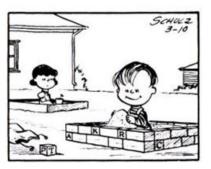












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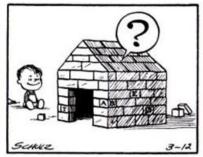














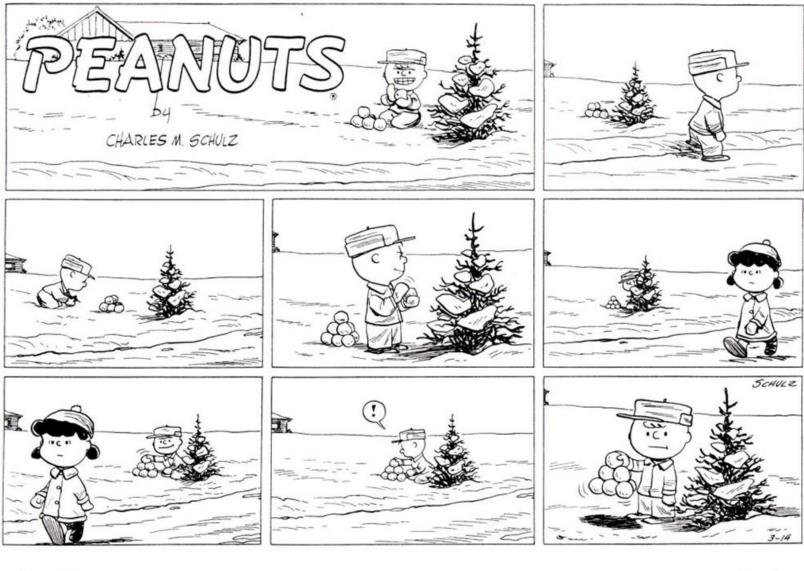






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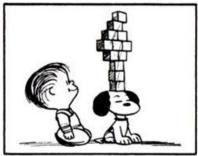






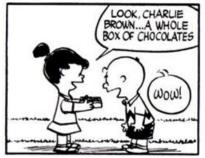


















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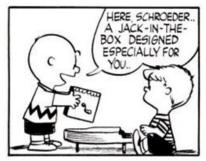
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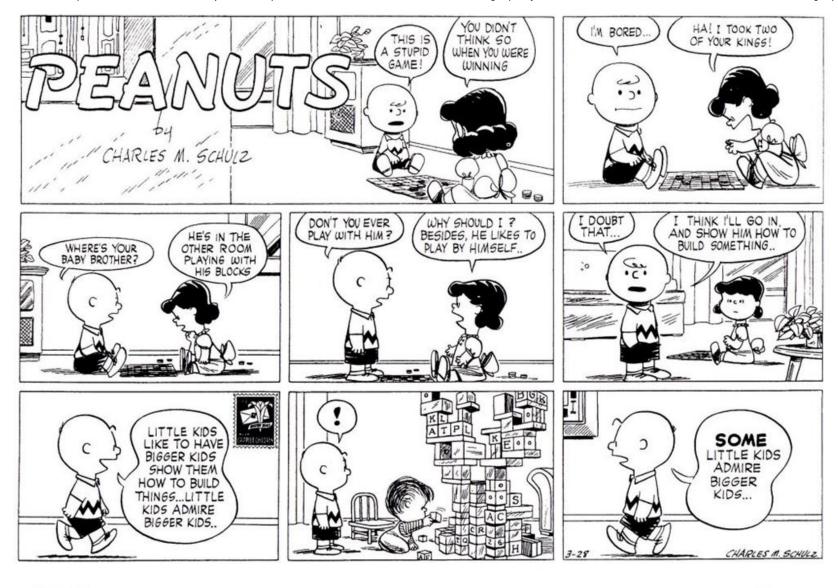










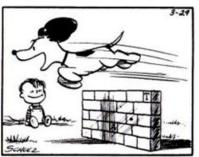


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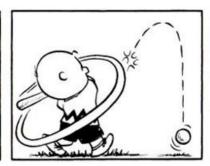




















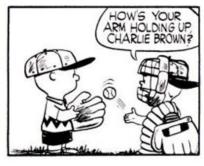


















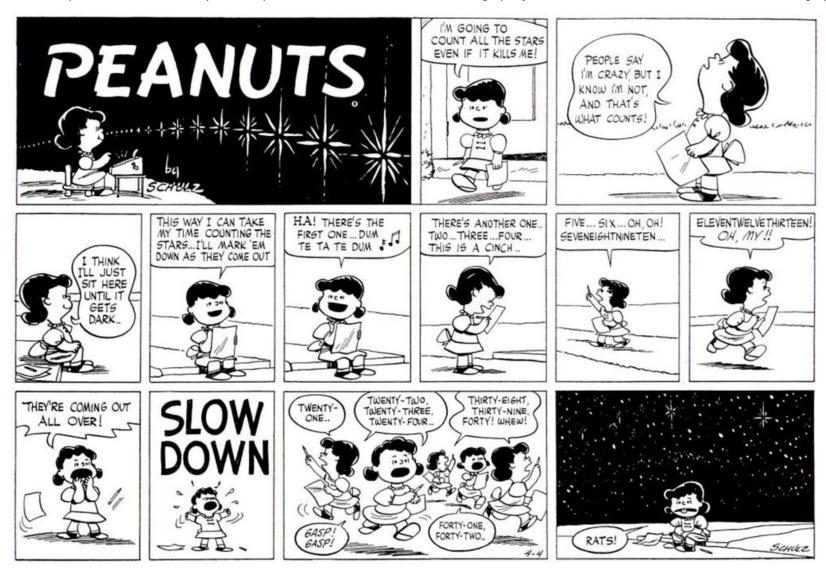








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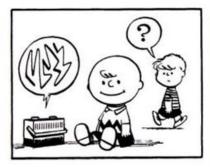


























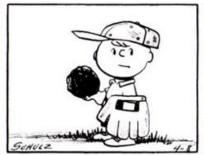
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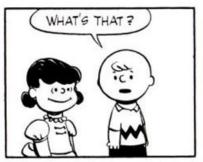


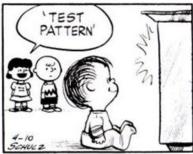














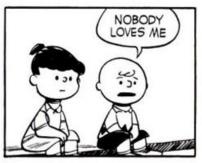
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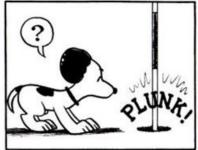


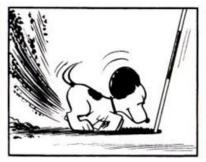






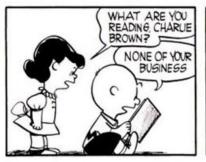








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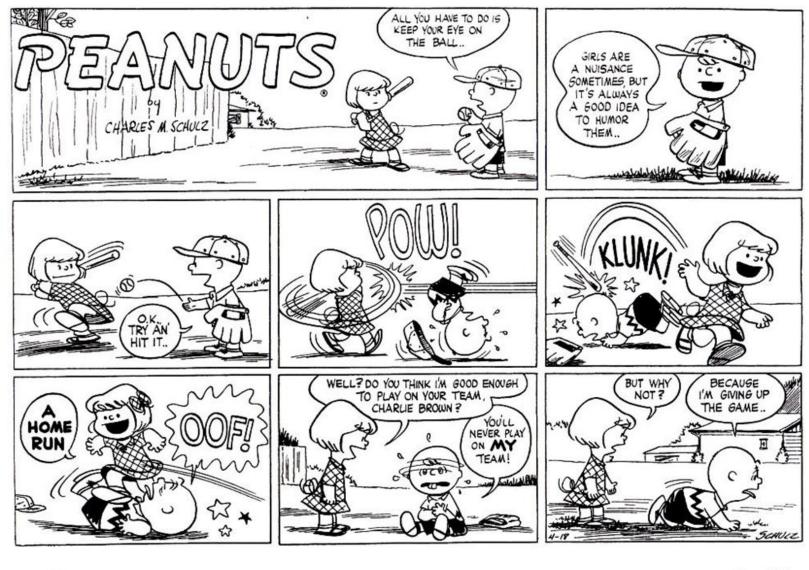








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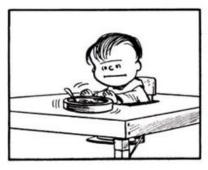


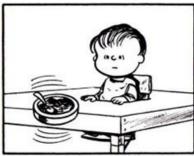


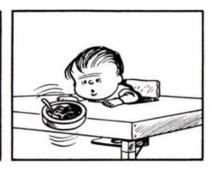


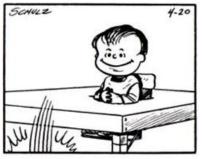




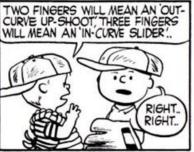
















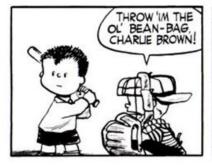
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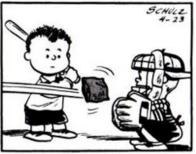




















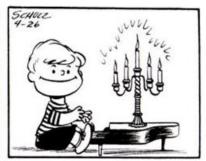


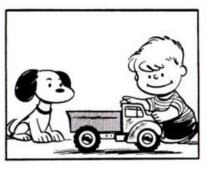
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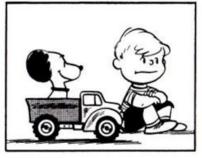














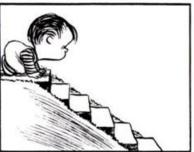










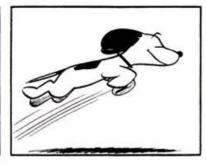






















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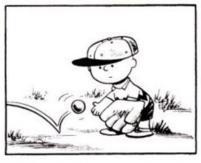
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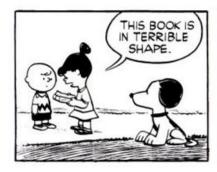








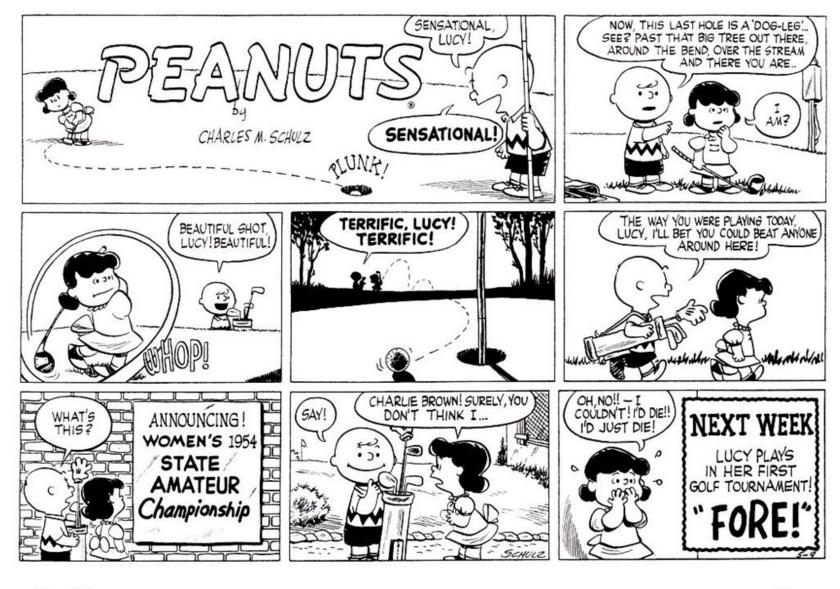












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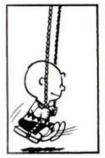




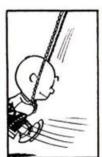




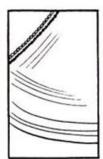






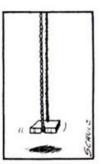






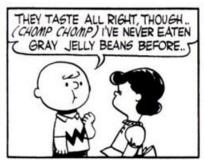


















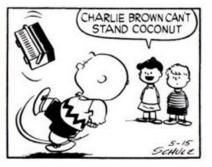












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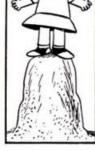










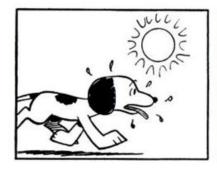


















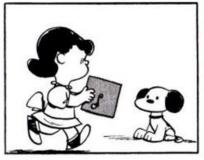
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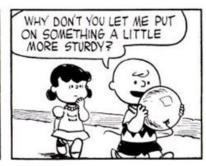












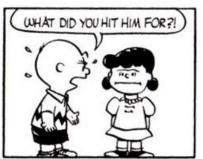




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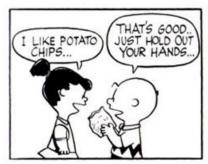
























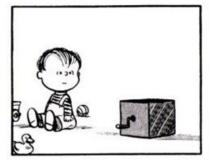






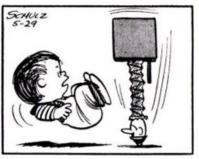






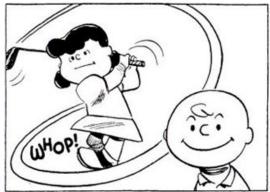




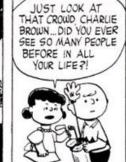


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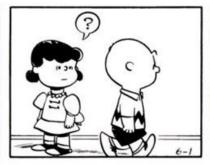






















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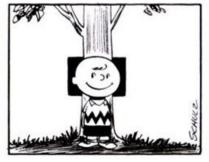










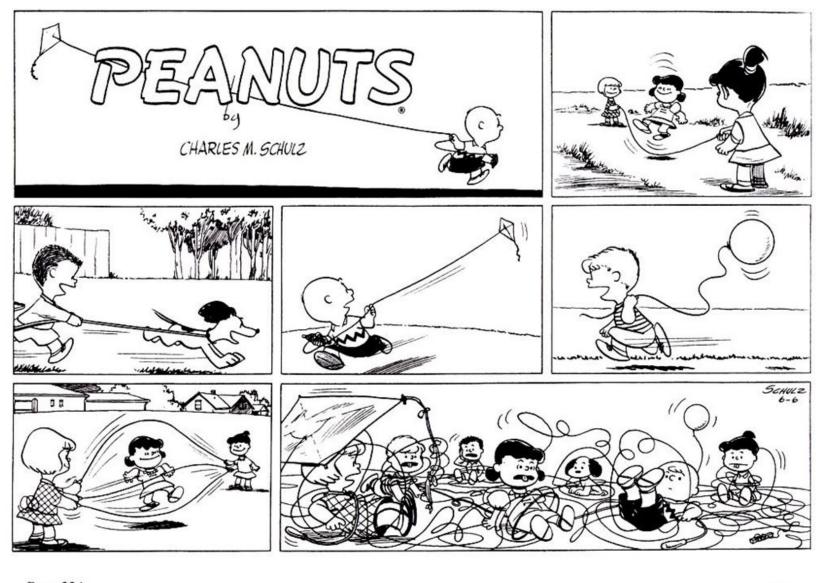












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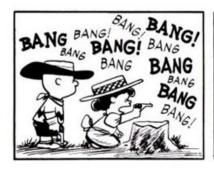




















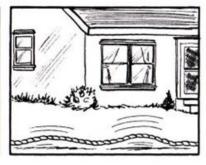












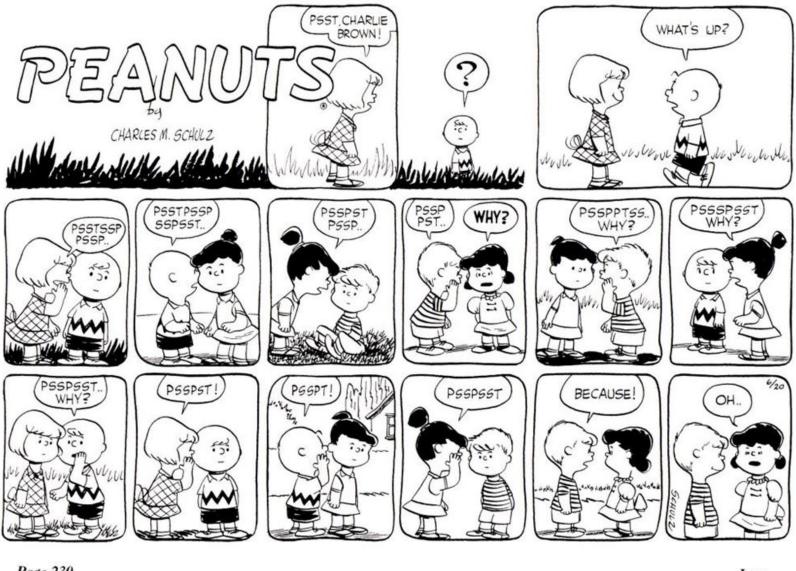


















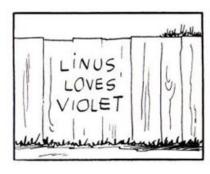




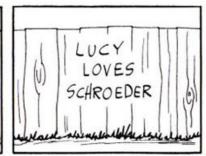


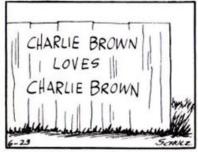


























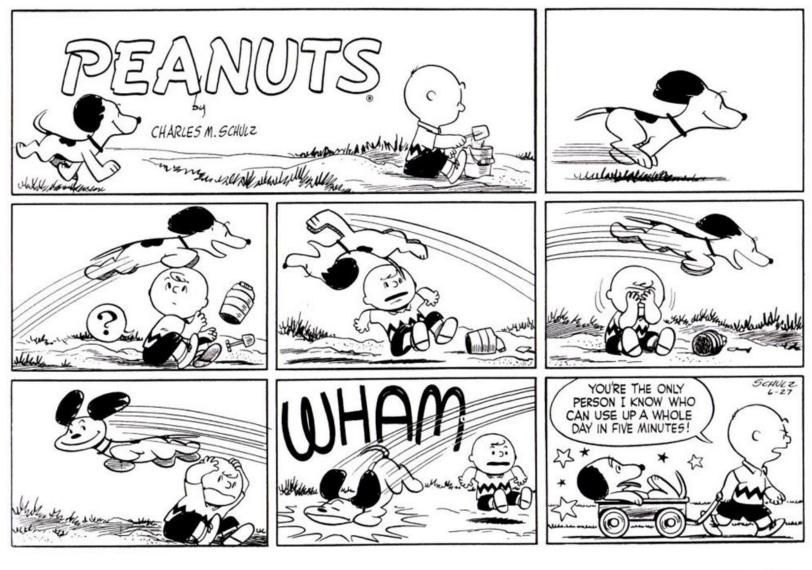












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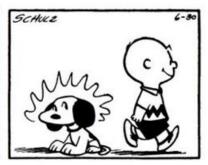












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June/July



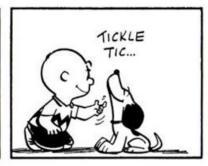
























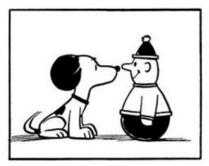
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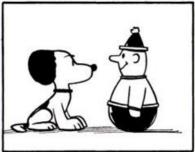


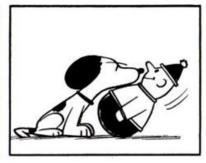
























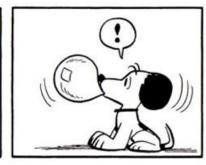














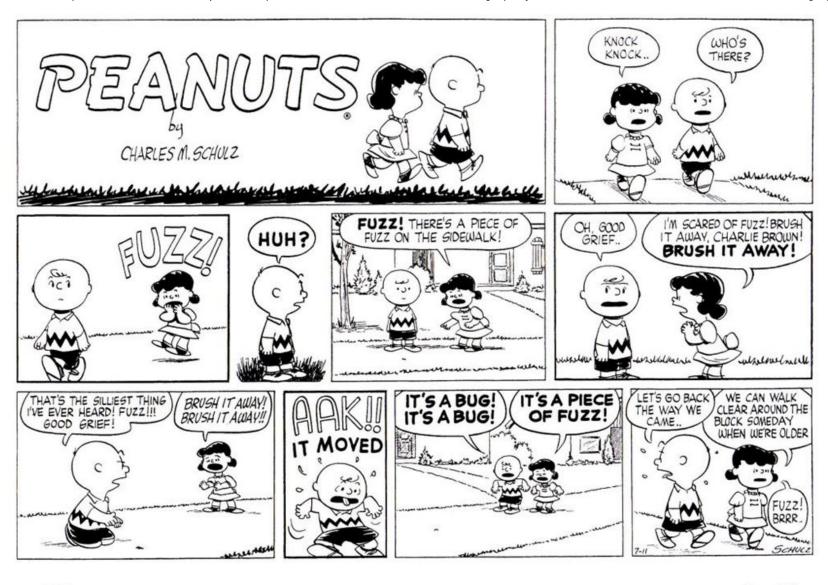








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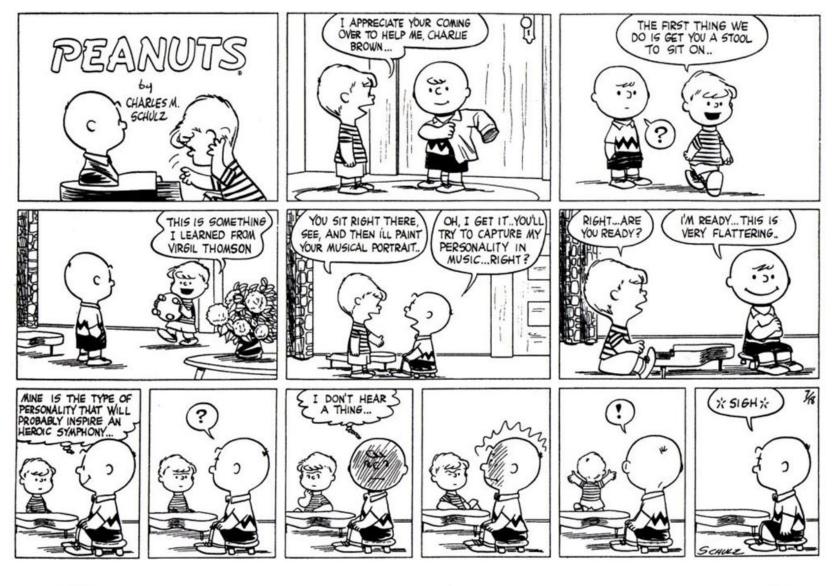












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July







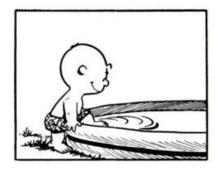


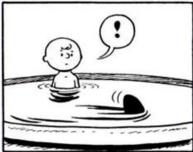








































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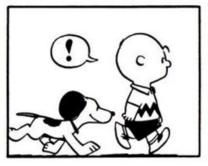








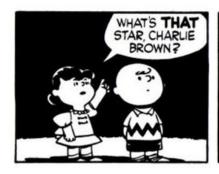












































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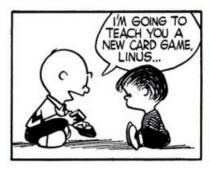
August





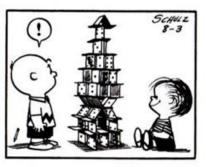










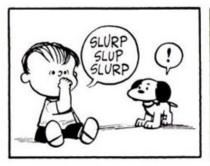




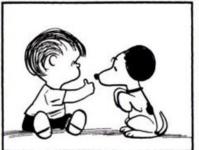










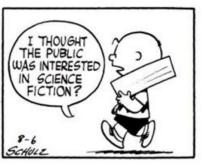


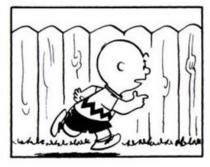


















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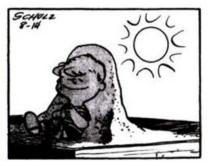














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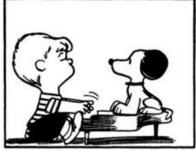


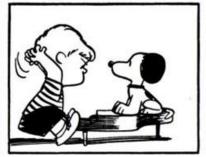


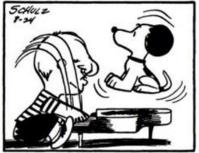








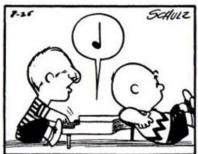












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August



















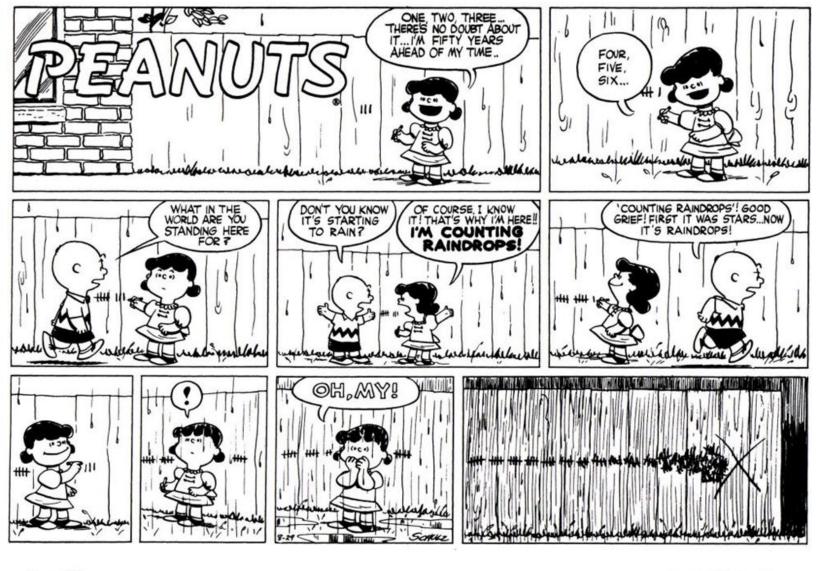






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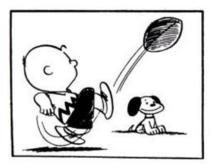


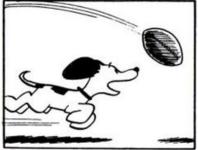


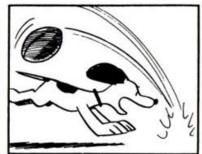








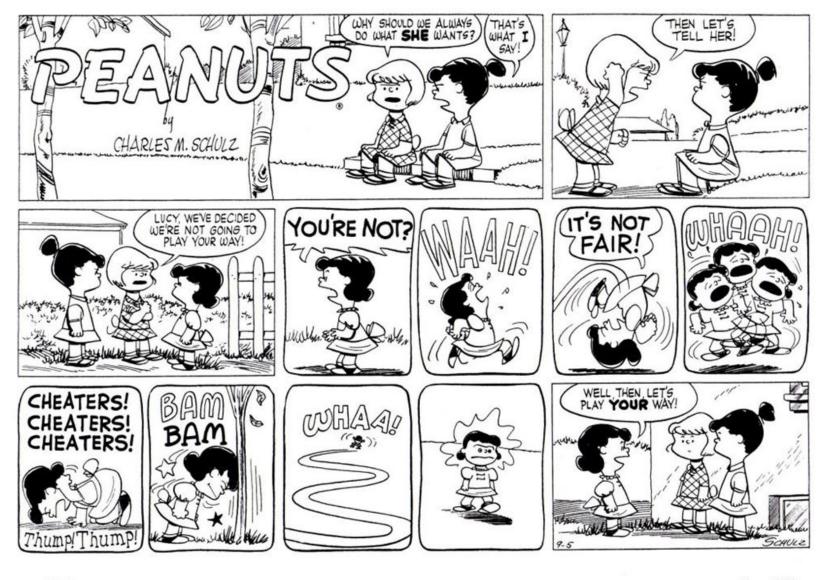






September

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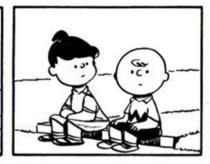






















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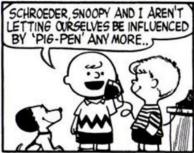










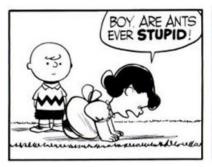








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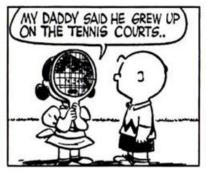










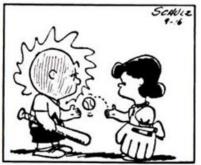




























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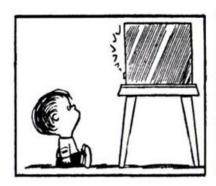




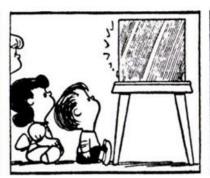














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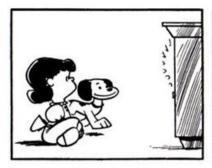




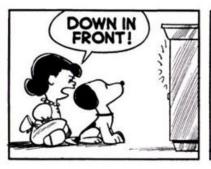


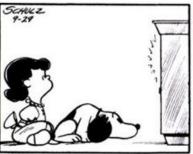










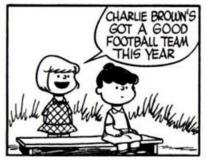




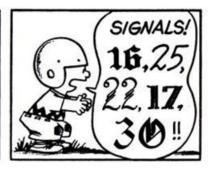








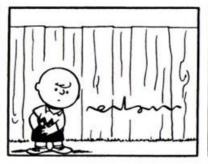






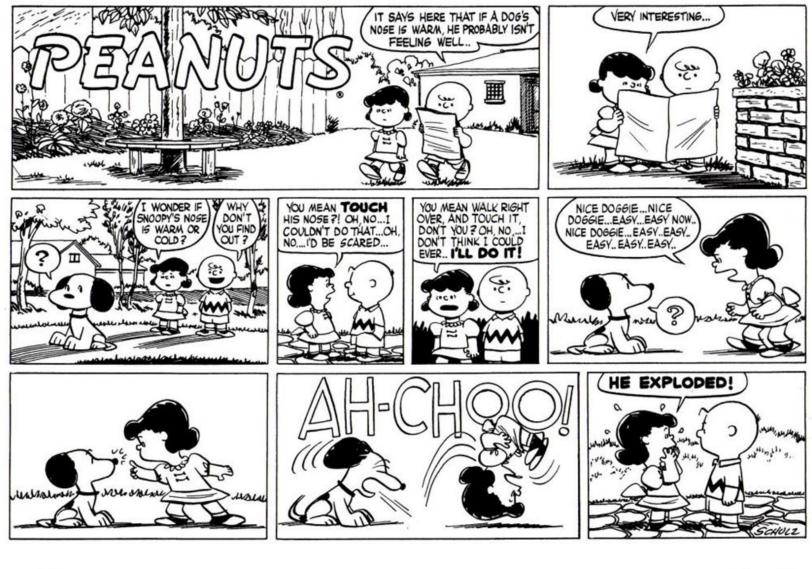








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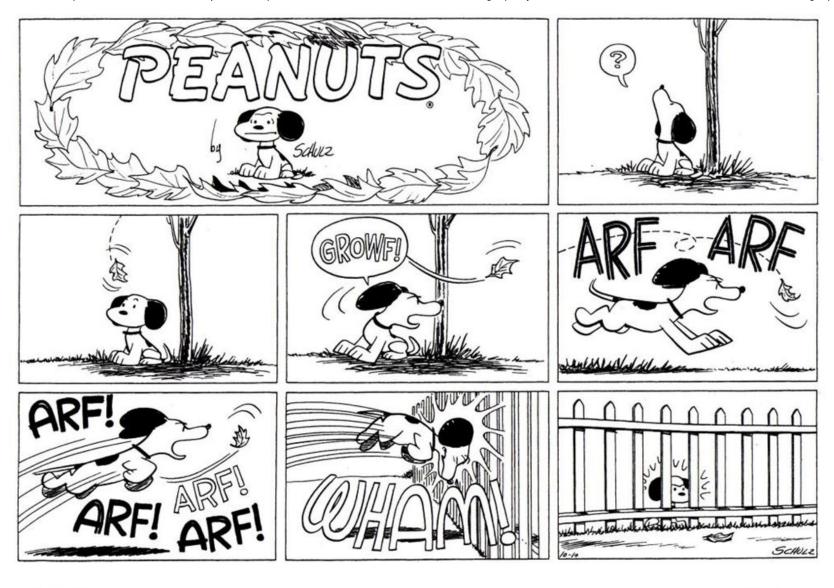












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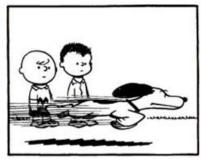










































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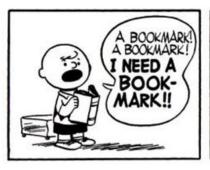
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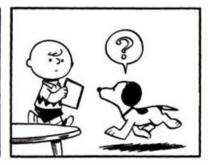








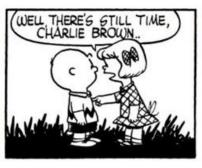










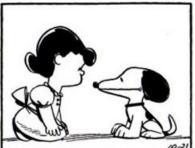




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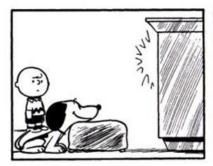


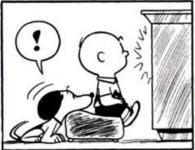


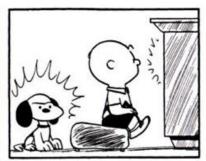




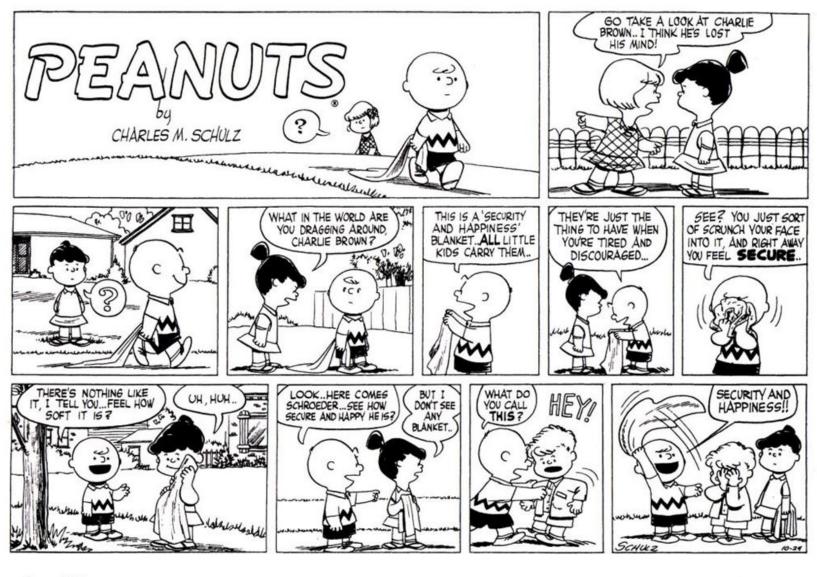












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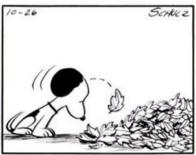




































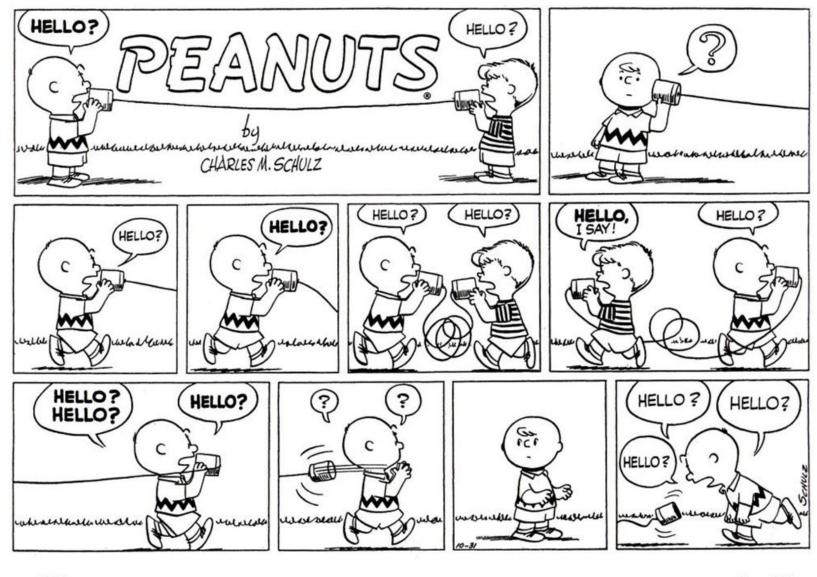






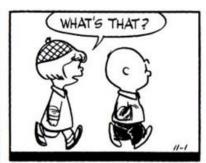


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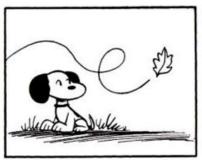






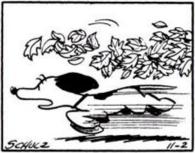




















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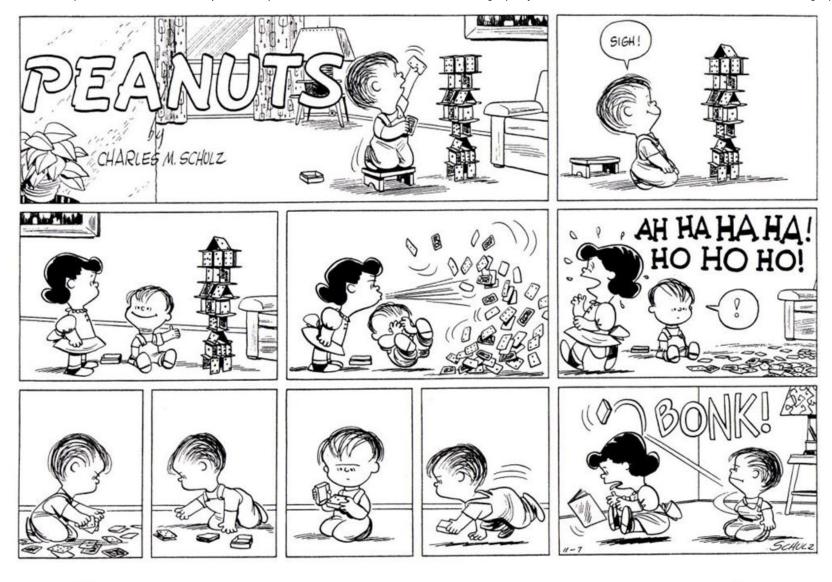












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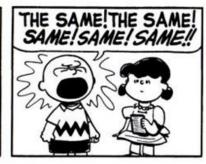










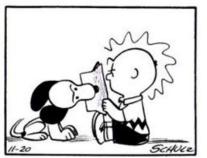














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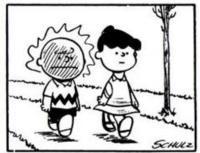




























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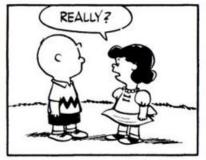
















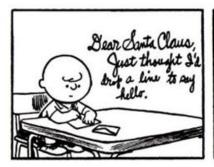


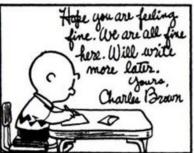




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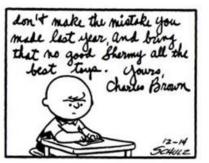














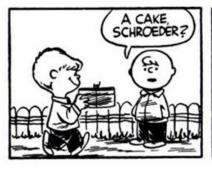






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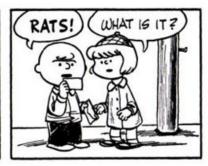
















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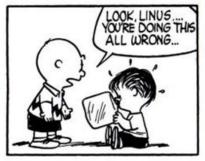
December









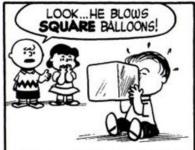












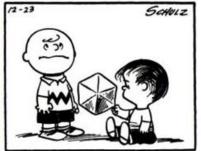








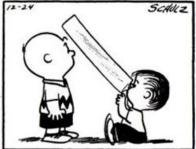














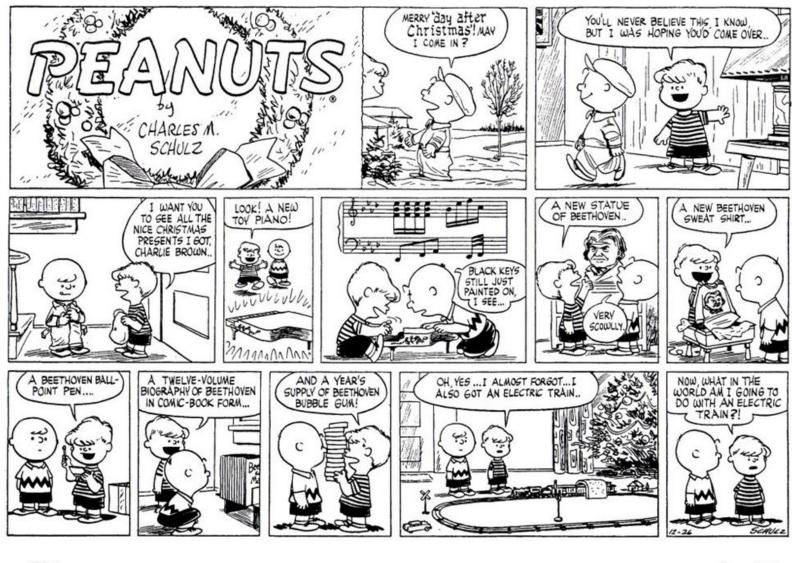






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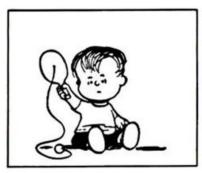
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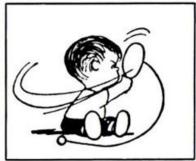






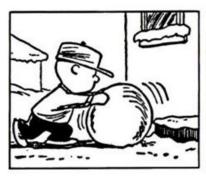














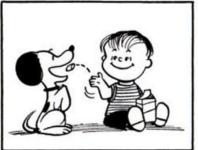


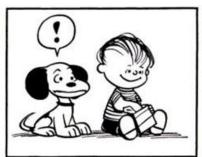


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A NOTE ABOUT REPRODUCTION QUALITY

Although the great majority of the 17,897 *Peanuts* strips Schulz wrote and drew have been carefully archived by Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, a number of strips, particularly from the earliest years, were not saved, and have never been reprinted since their original appearance in newspapers around the country.

To complicate matters further, *Peanuts* appeared in only a handful of newspapers in its early days, and most major newspapers have, tragically, divested themselves of their precious archival copies in favor of microfilm versions (which, while fine for researching old articles, are next to useless for reproducing graphics).

Great effort has been made to track down the very best copies of these elusive strips, and to restore them. Special kudos is due to Nicholson Baker, who through his American Newspaper Repository saved a vintage set of *Peanuts*-carrying *Chicago Tribunes*; to Duke University, now the custodian of this priceless resource and whose newsprint elves have been diligently scanning otherwise unavailable strips for us; and to *Peanuts* expert Nat Gertler, who has located a number of otherwise "missing" strips in obscure *Peanuts* collections of yore.

Nevertheless, some of the strips presented here (particularly in the last four months of 1954) ultimately do bear some evidence of the limitations of our sources, and on these we ask the reader's forbearance. Should we locate better copies as the series progresses, new editions will incorporate these improvements.

Finally, one strip has proven at least partly "lost": the May 3, 1953 Sunday page (page 53). We have found only two copies of it, neither of which includes the top tier (the title panel and panel following it). The version reproduced in this volume is a composite of a trimmed but relatively clean copy from the *Chicago Tribune* extensively retouched and re-inked to incorporate material visible in a very blurry but more complete microfilm copy; the top tier has been created from scratch by the book's designer, Seth. If there is a Holy Grail so far as *Peanuts* strips is concerned, May 3, 1953 is it, and we hope future editions of *The Complete Peanuts* 1953-1954 will be able to present it. Should we find one, we promise to publish it in the next available *Complete Peanuts* volume, so that loyal readers won't have to buy a second copy of this volume just to complete their collection.

-The Publishers



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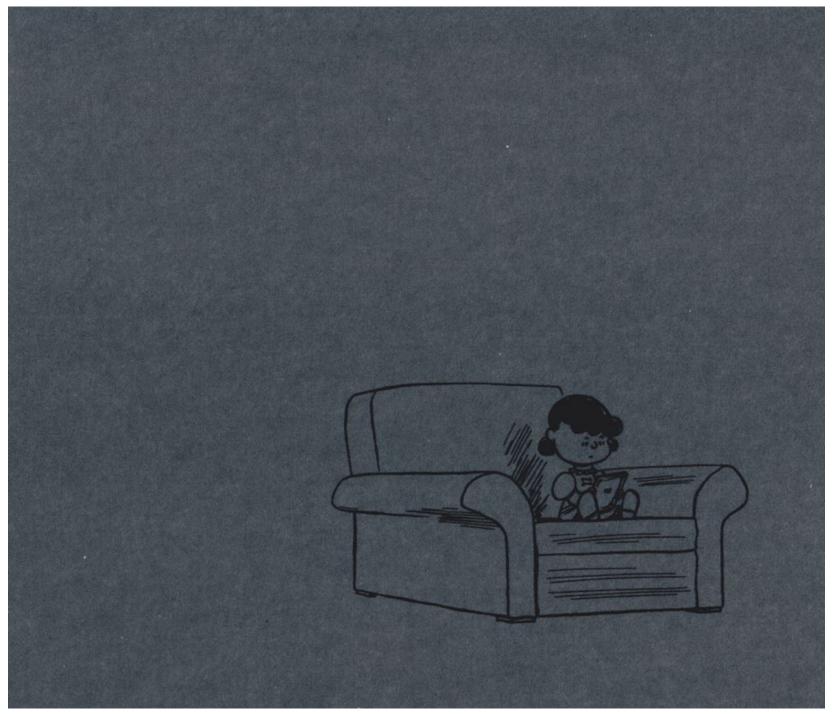
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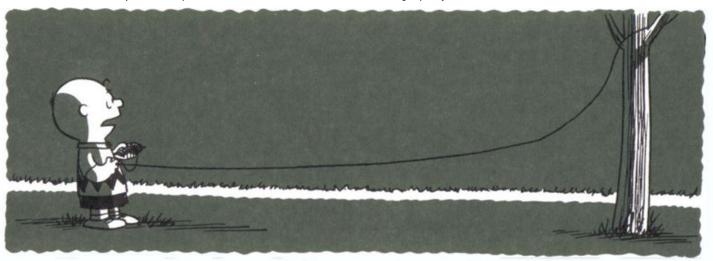
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CHARLES M. SCHULZ · 1922 to 2000

Charles M. Schulz was born November 25, 1922 in Minneapolis. His destiny was foreshadowed when an uncle gave him, at the age of two days, the nickname Sparky (after the racehorse Spark Plug in the newspaper strip *Barney Google*).

Schulz grew up in St. Paul. By all accounts, he led an unremarkable, albeit sheltered, childhood. He was an only child, close to both parents, his eventual career path nurtured by his father, who bought four Sunday papers every week — just for the comics.

An outstanding student, he skipped two grades early on, but began to flounder in high school — perhaps not so coincidentally at the same time kids are going through their cruelest, most status-conscious period of socialization. The pain, bitterness, insecurity, and failures chronicled in *Peanuts* appear to have originated from this period of Schulz's life.

Although Schulz enjoyed sports, he also found refuge in solitary activities: reading, drawing, and watching movies. He bought comic books and Big Little Books, pored over the newspaper strips, and copied his favorites — Buck Rogers, the Walt Disney characters, Popeye, Tim Tyler's Luck. He quickly became a connoisseur; his heroes were Milton Caniff, Roy Crane, Hal Foster, and Alex Raymond.

In his senior year in high school, his mother noticed an ad in a local newspaper for a correspondence school, Federal Schools (later called Art

Instruction Schools). Schulz passed the talent test, completed the course and began trying, unsuccessfully, to sell gag cartoons to magazines. (His first published drawing was of his dog, Spike, and appeared in a 1937 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! installment.)

After World War II had ended and Schulz was discharged from the army, he started submitting gag cartoons to the various magazines of the time; his first breakthrough, however, came when an editor at Timeless Topix hired him to letter adventure comics. Soon after that, he was hired by his alma mater, Art Instruction, to correct student lessons returned by mail.

Between 1947 and 1950, he succeeded in selling 17 cartoons to the Saturday Evening Post — as well as, to the local St. Paul Pioneer Press, a weekly comic feature called Li'l Folks. It was run in the women's section and paid \$10 a week. After writing and drawing the feature for two years, Schulz asked for a better location in the paper or for daily exposure, as well as a raise. When he was turned down on all three counts, he quit.

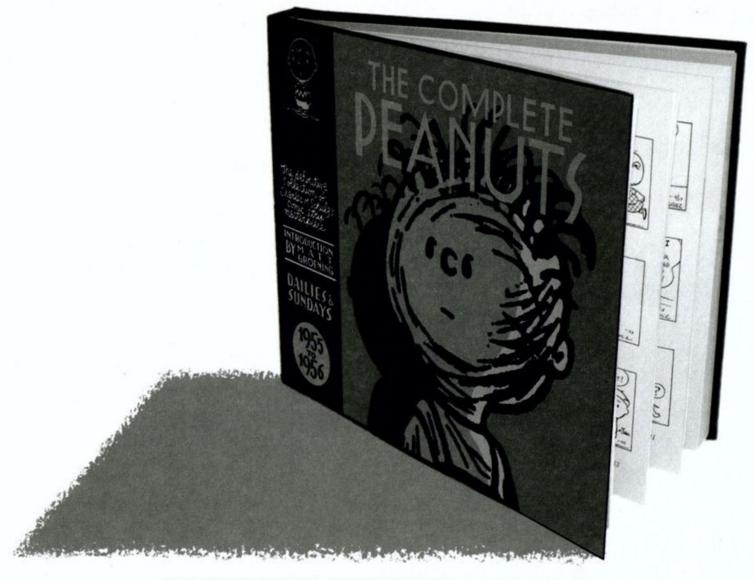
He started submitting strips to the newspaper syndicates. In the Spring of 1950, he received a letter from the United Feature Syndicate, announcing their interest in his submission, Li'l Folks. Schulz boarded a train in June for New York City; more interested in doing a strip than a

panel, he also brought along the first installments of what would become *Peanuts* — and that was what sold. (The title, which Schulz loathed to his dying day, was imposed by the syndicate). The first *Peanuts* daily appeared October 2, 1950; the first Sunday, January 6, 1952.

Prior to *Peanuts*, the province of the comics page had been that of gags, social and political observation, domestic comedy, soap opera, and various adventure genres. Although *Peanuts* changed, or evolved, during the 50 years Schulz wrote and drew it, it remained, as it began, an anomaly on the comics page — a comic strip about the interior crises of the cartoonist himself. After a painful divorce in 1973 from which he had not yet recovered, Schulz told a reporter, "Strangely, I've drawn better cartoons in the last six months — or as good as I've ever drawn. I don't know how the human mind works." Surely, it was this kind of humility in the face of profoundly irreducible human question that makes *Peanuts* as universally moving as it is.

Diagnosed with cancer, Schulz retired from

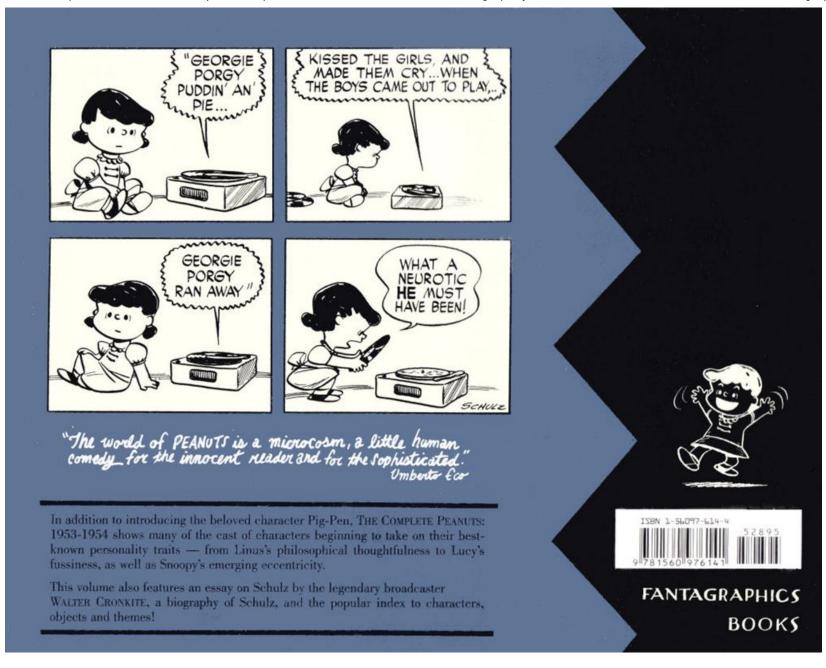
Peanuts at the end of 1999. He died on February 13th 2000, the day before Valentine's day — and the day before his last strip was published — having completed 17,897 daily and Sunday strips, each and every one fully written, drawn, and lettered entirely by his own hand — an unmatched achievement in — Gary Groth



COMING IN THE COMPLETE PEANUTS: 1955-1956

Pig-Pen settles in for the long haul... Charlie Brown's first sad Valentine's day... Baby Linus finally speaks (and develops an obsession with firearms)... Snoopy begins his career as an impressionist (rhinoceros, pelican, moose, kangaroo, alligator, Beethoven)... Charlie Brown's battle with kites heats up ("Burn, you monster!")... and an introduction by Matt Groening.





Complete Peanuts v2 (1953-1954) Reading

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